



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## UTLA STRIKE DATE POSTPONED TO MONDAY, JANUARY 14

1 message

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**Rusty Hicks** <news@thelafed.org>  
Reply-To: news@thelafed.org  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 9, 2019 at 5:37 PM



Dear Eric,

The UTLA strike has been postponed until Monday, January 14th. Please see below for ways to show your solidarity with our LA teachers and students.

**Here are some ways that you can support the strike:**

### **Adopt-a-School**

Adopt one or several schools where parents and community members can join the picket lines before and after school. Follow this link to find the school closest to you, and then fill out this form. If you need help figuring out where to plug in, you can join the LA Fed at LAUSD Headquarters at 333 S. Beaudry Ave. from 7-9am or at one of the school locations we have adopted, please email [claudia@thelafed.org](mailto:claudia@thelafed.org) for more information.

# Rally on the First Day of the Strike

January 14th, 10:30am

March for Public Education

City Hall

## Social Media

Post on social media that you won't cross the line! Stand up for Public Education

Use the hashtags **#strikerready** **#redfored** **#utlastrong** (click the link to post a tweet).

## Mobilization Meeting on the Strike

For those of you attending the MLK Breakfast this Saturday, January 12th at the Westin Bonaventure, we will be holding a meeting at 10:30am, immediately following the program, with updates on the strike and information on how you can support LA's teachers and students.

In Solidarity,

Rusty Hicks



Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

2130 W. James M. Wood Bl.

Los Angeles, CA 90006



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Sent via ActionNetwork.org. To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, please [click here](#).

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## I support the teachers

1 message

Adriane Zaudke <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Sep 20, 2018 at 10:40 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, jerry.brown@gov.ca, stateinformation@state.ca.gov

Hello,

I am a parent in the LAUSD 90041 district. I am very concerned about the possible upcoming teachers' strike.

I am writing to let you know how much I value my child's teachers.

I urge you to work as an agent of change and forge a way forward - to offer our children's teachers fair pay, (perhaps an increase closer to what the school board gave themselves) and to provide our children with reasonable, responsible, manageable class sizes; and support from counselors and nurses.

Investing in teachers in these areas is in an investment in our children.

Regards,

Adriane



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## concern over teachers' strike--support teachers

1 message

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Edan Lepucki <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Sep 21, 2018 at 12:44 PM

Bcc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

To whom it may concern:

I'm the parent in LA Unified with a child in second grade at Toland Way Elementary School. I am also an LAUSD graduate (Hamilton High, class of 1998!) I am writing because I'm concerned about the possible upcoming teachers' strike. I want you to know how deeply I value my son's teacher--and all the teachers in our school. I urge you to work to offer our teachers fair pay, and to provide our children with reasonable class sizes and support from counselors and nurses. We need these people in our community to make it stronger, and to help our kids have beautiful futures.

Thank you,

Edan Lepucki  
[REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Re: Fair Teacher Contract

1 message

gemma marquez <[REDACTED]>  
Reply-To: gemma marquez <[REDACTED]>  
To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Sat, Sep 22, 2018 at 6:05 PM

Hello Mayor Garcetti,

I recently discovered that the starting salary for a LAPD Police Officer 1 is \$59,717 upon entering the Police Academy. The officer will earn this rate until graduation from the Police Academy. Upon completion of the academy and assignment to the field as a probationary Police Officer 1, the officer shall be paid \$62,974. No Baccalaureate requirement and teacher credential is required. The starting salary for a teacher is \$50,368. It requires a Baccalaureate and teacher credential; in addition, to a new requirement imposed to clear the teaching credential (2 years). It requires the teacher to teach approximately 10 years plus and pursue additional 28 units (post-grad) studies to earn what a LAPD Police Officer 1 earns the first year of employment.

Teachers are the first responders for students. When was the last time a law enforcement officer was shot or killed at a school site. Teachers have been shot and/or killed while protecting students. They are the first responders! Yet, no one acknowledges the tremendous sacrifices they make to protecting and educating the students.

I challenge you and/or your staff to work at the school site for an extended period; so that, you will discover that teachers wear more than one hat. Breakfast is no longer served in the cafeteria. LAUSD now offers breakfast in the classroom. Teachers are now responsible for dispensing, clearing and cleaning the classroom for BIC. Within minutes the teacher then has to be prepared for providing a rigorous curriculum to students. The teacher often serves as nurse, counselor, and tutor to students who require additional guidance and support. Teachers often give up their nutrition and lunch to provide one-to-one tutoring to struggling students. And, after a long day of trying to meet the needs of all their students, the teachers must sweep, clean, and mop their own classroom. Currently, most classrooms are allocated approximately 7 minutes of cleaning. Please let me know how

much can possibly be cleaned if the custodial staff is allocated 7 minutes to clean. Lastly, teachers spend their own money. The money is often spent on those things the school district doesn't provide.

Do not discount the impact that a single teacher can make on children. Educators are integral to the continued success of children.

Stand up for TEACHERS!!! It's TIME to value their hard work by acknowledging their contribution to our society with a pay raise!

Gemma Marquez

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## teacher's strike

1 message

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**Lesley Kallet Rose** <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Sep 24, 2018 at 7:13 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Dear School Board Members and Mayor Garcetti,

I'm a parent at Balboa Magnet Elementary in District 3, and I'm concerned about the possible upcoming teachers' strike. I am writing to let you know how much I value my child's teachers. I urge you to work as an agent of change and find a way forward to offer our children's teachers fair pay, and to provide our children with reasonable class sizes and support from counselors and nurses. Investing in teachers in these areas is in an investment in our children.

thank you,

Lesley Rose



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Support for our Teachers

1 message

Ann Song <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 8:21 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, monica.garcia@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net

Dear School Board Members and Mayor Garcetti,

I'm a current parent at Balboa Magnet Elementary in District 3.

I'm concerned about the possible upcoming teacher's strike. I am writing to let you know how much I value my children's teachers who tirelessly put in endless hours to give their very best to our children.

I urge you to work as an agent of change and find a way forward to offer our children's teachers FAIR PAY, and to provide our children with reasonable class sizes and support for our counselors to school nurses. Investing in **teachers** in these areas is truly a direct investment in our children.

Thank you,  
Ann Song



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Concerned Parent - District 3

1 message

**Kristina Caberto Wallace** [REDACTED]

Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 8:42 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

**Dear School Board Members and Mayor Garcetti,**

I'm a current parent at Balboa Magnet Elementary as well as Mayall Magnet Elementary in LAUSD District 3. I'm extremely concerned about the possible upcoming teacher's strike. I am writing to let you know how much I value my children's teachers who tirelessly put in endless hours to give their best to our children. I am actually fortunate to have my kids in relatively well resourced schools - and yet, almost every single day we need to fundraise to pay for paper, markers, and their actual PE, music, and science teachers. I am sickened at how much time our teachers and students need to spend fundraising instead of learning - and fundraising for things I'd never imagined they'd have to fundraise for. I am actually a professional fundraiser and am exhausted by it - and disgusted.

My daughter's Kindergarten teachers all had classes of 30 until the school had to beg borrow and plead for an additional classroom. This should not be the way it is - several 5 year olds had to change classrooms after just becoming acclimated bc the district dragged their heels on doing what is best for these kids. These teachers are AMAZING! All they are asking for is support in their needs, and their kids. We pay some of the highest taxes in the country and have amongst the worst education outcomes - inexcusable. Invest in our kids, teachers, and schools FIRST before all else.

My 5 year old daughter came down with a fever at school the other day and was sobbing, distraught, and in pain. It was going to take me 20 minutes to get there from work. I asked if she could lay down in the nurse's office in the meantime. Well, there was no nurse that day so she had to sit an office crying while the already overloaded office staff also tended to her at the same time. Is this the best you can do?!!

I urge you to work as an agent of change and find a way forward to offer our children's teachers FAIR PAY, and to provide our children with reasonable class sizes and support for our counselors to school nurses. Investing in teachers in these areas is truly a direct investment in our children.

Thank you,  
Kristina Wallace





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## a parent supporting our teachers

1 message

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Loraine Lundquist <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Sep 26, 2018 at 5:39 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, Mayor Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Dear LAUSD School Board members and Mayor Garcetti,

My name is Loraine Lundquist, and I am a proud LAUSD parent of two children at Balboa Gifted Magnet Elementary. **I'm writing to let you know that I support our schools' teachers**, and I see their demands as eminently reasonable. I reject the false narrative suggesting reasonable teacher requests would come at the expense of our children. Nothing will support our students more than well-paid and well-supported teachers. I support smaller class sizes, more nurses, librarians, and counselors, and fair wages for our teachers. I also believe higher teacher wages, better class sizes, and less testing would attract and retain more students and families currently choosing other options.

If there is a teacher strike, I will keep my children at home in solidarity with the teachers, and I will hold you, the board members and the superintendent, responsible for the need to strike. The majority of parents I've spoken to feel the same. I trust, however, that it won't come to that, and that mediation will be successful.

thank you,  
Loraine Lundquist



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## I Support Teachers

1 message

Sage Wells <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Sep 26, 2018 at 4:30 PM

To: "austin.beutner@lausd.net" <austin.beutner@lausd.net>, george.mckenna@lausd.net <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, monica.garcia@lausd.net <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, nick.melvoin@lausd.net <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>, kelly.gonez@lausd.net <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, richard.vladovic@lausd.net" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "cc:" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Dear Superintendent Austin Beutner and LAUSD Board,

I am a parent at Mountain View Elementary (LAUSD) and I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and our public schools. We are counting on you to represent public school education and the public interest.

1. Meet the teachers' request for a well-deserved raise. Teachers create our future leaders, innovators and policy makers. They deserve to be compensated fairly and well for the important work they do. We are aware of your 174% percent pay increase last year and expect the same for our teachers. Happy and motivated teachers make happy and motivated children.

2. Reduce class sizes. Smaller class sizes increases learning ability and social emotional well being for students. Scientific research supports this finding and it's positive impact on students' future. Teachers' working conditions ARE students' learning conditions.

3. Additional support and funding for nurses and counselors on campuses.

We need to ensure the safety and health of all students.  
Do not fail our childrens' physical and emotional health.

**WE STAND WITH PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS!**

Thank you very much for your time and support.

Sincerely,

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Sage Wells



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## I stand with public school teachers

1 message

Muriel Leventis <[REDACTED]>  
To: Muriel Leventis <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Sep 26, 2018 at 5:17 PM

Dear Superintendent Austin Beutner, LAUSD Board, and Mayor Garcetti –

I am a registered voter, taxpayer, and parent.

I am writing to urge you to please support our public school teachers and our public schools.

We are counting on you to represent public school education and the public interest.

1. Meet the teachers' request for a well-deserved raise. Teachers create our future leaders, innovators and policy makers. They deserve to be compensated fairly and well for the important work they do. We are aware of your 174% percent pay increase last year and expect the same for our teachers. Happy and motivated teachers make happy and motivated children.

2. Reduce class sizes. Smaller class sizes increases learning ability and social emotional well being for students. Scientific research supports this finding and it's positive impact on students' future.

Teachers' working conditions ARE students' learning conditions.

3. Additional support and funding for nurses and counselors on campuses. We need to ensure the safety and health of all students. Do not fail our childrens' physical and emotional health.

**WE STAND WITH PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS!**

Thank you very much for your time and support.

Sincerely,  
Muriel Leventis



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Reasonable requests

1 message

Julie Mann <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Sep 26, 2018 at 5:43 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.org, kelly.gonez@lausd.org, richard.vladovic@lausd.org  
Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Dear Superintendent Austin Beutner and LAUSD Board,

I am a registered voter and a parent at Atwater Elementary school.

I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and our public schools. We are counting on you to represent public school education and the public interest.

1. Meet the teachers' request for a well-deserved raise. Teachers create our future leaders, innovators and policy makers. They deserve to be compensated fairly and well for the important work they do.

We are aware of your 174% percent pay increase last year and expect the same for our teachers.

Happy and motivated teachers make happy and motivated children.

2. Reduce class sizes. Smaller class sizes increases learning ability and social emotional well being for students. Scientific research supports this finding and it's positive impact on students' future.

Teachers' working conditions ARE students' learning conditions.

3. Additional support and funding for nurses and counselors on campuses.

We need to ensure the safety and health of all students.

Do not fail our childrens' physical and emotional health.

**WE STAND WITH PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS!**

Thank you very much for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Julie Mann



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## in support of our teachers

1 message

Nora Murphy <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Sep 26, 2018 at 6:23 PM

To: "austin.beutner@lausd.net" <austin.beutner@lausd.net>, "george.mckenna@lausd.net" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "monica.garcia@lausd.net" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "scott.schmerelson@lausd.net" <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "nick.melvoin@lausd.net" <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>, "kelly.gonez@lausd.net" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "richard.vladovic@lausd.net" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "cc:" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Dear Superintendent Austin Beutner and LAUSD Board,

I am a professional educator, former LAUSD teacher, school librarian, and parent of a first grader in LAUSD.

**I will NOT send my child to school if there is a strike. I realize that you receive funding for attendance, and as an additional protest (and an effort to NOT cross picket lines) I will keep my child home. I acknowledge that not all LAUSD families can manage this (and it will be a hardship for mine as well) but I support our teachers and will stand by them 100%. It is your responsibility to resolve this, and it will be your responsibility if funding is lost due to poor attendance. I am encouraging all other LAUSD parents with the means to do so to keep their students home until you fully support our teachers.**

I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and our public schools. We are counting on you to represent public school education and the public interest.

1. Meet the teachers' request for a well-deserved raise. Teachers create our future leaders, innovators and policy makers. They deserve to be compensated fairly and well for the important work they do.

We are aware of your 174% percent pay increase last year and expect the same for our teachers. Happy and motivated teachers make happy and motivated children.

2. Reduce class sizes. Smaller class sizes increases learning ability and social emotional well being for students. Scientific research supports this finding and it's positive impact on students' future.

Teachers' working conditions ARE students' learning conditions.

3. Additional support and funding for nurses, librarians, and counselors on campuses. We need to ensure the safety and health of all students.

Do not fail our childrens' physical and emotional health.

WE STAND WITH PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS!

Thank you very much for your time and support.

Sincerely,

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## From the parents of a LAUSD 1st grader: PLEASE PREVENT A STRIKE

1 message

**Julia Gallucci** <[REDACTED]> Wed, Sep 26, 2018 at 7:59 PM  
To: "austin.beutner@lausd.net <austin.beutner@lausd.net>, george.mckenna@lausd.net <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, monica.garcia@lausd.net <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, nick.melvoin@lausd.net <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>, kelly.gonez@lausd.net <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, richard.vladovic@lausd.net" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>  
Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, dann gallucci <[REDACTED]>

Superintendent Beutner and LAUSD Board of Education:

We are the parents of [REDACTED] a first grader at Micheltorena Street Elementary School. We are writing to you today to urge you to meet the LAUSD teachers' request for increased wages, smaller class sizes, and additional funding & support for nurses and counselors in our schools. We strongly agree with the reasons for their requests and hope you will do right by the teachers and the students in our district.

We are gravely concerned about the disruption to our daughter's learning that will inevitably occur if the teachers are forced to go on strike next week. If that happens, we will not blame the teachers. We understand that striking may be their only tool to ensure they are treated fairly, and we support their decision to strike if they do so. Instead, will hold you and the LAUSD Board accountable. We hope you will come to an agreement with the teachers as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Julia Gallucci and Dann Gallucci  
LAUSD parents





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## I support LAUSD teachers

1 message

L. Cole <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Sep 26, 2018 at 10:37 PM

To: "\"austin.beutner@lausd.net\""" <austin.beutner@lausd.net>, "\"george.mckenna@lausd.net\""" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "\"monica.garcia@lausd.net\""" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "\"scott.schmerelson@lausd.net\""" <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "\"nick.melvoin@lausd.net\""" <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>, "\"kelly.gonez@lausd.net\""" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "\"richard.vladovic@lausd.net\""" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>  
Cc: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Dear Superintendent Beutner and LAUSD Board,

I am a resident of the city of Los Angeles, a registered voter, a taxpayer, a parent of a student who attends an LAUSD school (GALA- Michelle King School for STEM), and an educator who teaches at the college level.

I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and our public schools. We are counting on you to represent public school education and the public interest. You can do this by supporting the following:

1. Meet the teachers' request for a well-deserved raise. Teachers create our future leaders, innovators and policy makers. They deserve to be compensated fairly and well for the important work they do.
2. Reduce class sizes. Smaller class sizes increases learning ability and social emotional well being for students. Scientific research supports this finding and its positive impact on students' futures. Teachers' working conditions ARE students' learning conditions.
3. Additional support and funding for nurses, counselors, and librarians on campuses. We need to ensure the safety and health of all students. Do not fail our children's physical and emotional health!!!

Our family STANDS WITH PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS!

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Cole



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## UTLA help!

1 message

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**Paz Stark** <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 9:39 AM

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the Mount Washington school district. I also have children attending LAUSD at Ivanhoe Elementary and Thomas Starr Middle School.

I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,

Paz Kahana

\*\*Mother of [REDACTED] 4th grader at Ivanhoe & [REDACTED] 7th grader at King



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR TEACHERS!

1 message

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**Carla Immordino** <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 10:19 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the Ivanhoe Elementary school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned and deserve.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and most importantly our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,  
Carla Immordino



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Teacher Strike

1 message

Amy Davila <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 9:53 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the Franklin school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,  
Amy Davila



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Support Teachers!

1 message

darcy hemley

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 9:58 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident and tax payer living in in LAUSD's school district.  
My children attend LAUSD schools.

I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,

darcy hemley-casucci  
www.darcyhemley.com





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Support Teachers!!!!

1 message

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Aleigh Lewis <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 9:46 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the LAUSD school district. My daughter attends Mt. Washington Elementary. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

And please, just make the schools better for children. Teachers know what's best.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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<http://aleighlewis.com>



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## UTLA negotiations

1 message

**Samara Hayes** <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 9:29 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello all,

I live in in the Delevan school district and have a kid starting there next year. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands. If you fight to limit class size, stay strong against the charter lobby, and support fair pay it's the best thing for our teachers (who deserve so much more than society allots) -- and it's ALSO a win for our communities and kids.

I stand with UTLA, for the next generation. I stand with my 900+ LA moms group that knows what's right and will fight like hell to protect it. Please be on our side. The other side will have no heroes.

Best,  
Samara



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## From an Ivanhoe Parent

1 message

Christopher Hogan <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 10:26 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

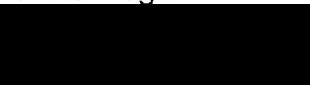
Hi Superintendent Beutner, LAUSD Board members and Mayor Garcetti -

I am a resident living in the Ivanhoe School district and I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and most importantly- for all our children.

I stand with UTLA, for our kids. As a parent and voter and proud Angeleno, I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and I ask that you work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their sensible demands.

Sincerely,  
Chris Hogan



Sent from my iPhone





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Support the Teachers

1 message

Jena Schenk <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 8:29 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Please, please, please, school board and superintendent Beutner, invest in our schools and our teachers and avoid a strike.

Our school and my family feels very strongly that what our teachers are asking for is basic AND essential to keeping our kids learning and thriving. Be transformational leaders, please, and find a way forward. We need you to believe in our public schools and our children, and hold you accountable for doing so.

I think "doing everything possible to ensure students have access to a safe, clean and supportive learning environment", means listening to the teachers and limiting class size, providing support staff, and raising pay an actual 6%.

Thank you

Jena Schenk  
Mom of two kids in Ivanhoe Elementary  
[REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Our Teachers Deserve More

1 message

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**maureen cassidy** <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 8:21 AM

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

I live in Echo Park and my children attend Millikan Middle School in Sherman Oaks. Please support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Thank you,  
Maureen Cassidy



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Teachers' Union Negotiations

1 message

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**Kate Grodd** <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 9:56 AM

To: Kate Grodd <[REDACTED]>

Bcc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the Los Feliz school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,  
Kate Grodd



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## UTLA

1 message

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**Katherine Sheehan** <[REDACTED]> Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 1:25 PM  
To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net,  
scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net,  
richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the Mt. Washington school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,  
Katherine



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Please support our teachers

1 message

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Jessica Craven [REDACTED] >

Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 9:29 AM

Hi there.

I'm a mom and a resident living in the Mt. Washington Elementary school district. My child is a third-grader there, and I am the PTA president. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands. I see how hard these people work, and I know they are barely making ends meet. If we didn't fundraise like crazy they wouldn't have enough supplies, teacher's aides, gym—anything! Please sit down and work it out with them. They deserve your generosity.

Best,

Jessica Craven  
[REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## I support our LAUSD teachers and the UTLA

1 message

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**Stephanie Hutin** <[REDACTED]>

Bcc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the Mount Washington school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the supp

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,

Stephanie Hutin and Florencio Zavala

Stephanie Hutin, M.F.A.  
doctoral student, Cultural Studies, Claremont Graduate University  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1581-4168>

[www.stephaniehutin.com](http://www.stephaniehutin.com)  
[REDACTED]

Gender Pronouns: She, Her, Hers



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## Parent of Mt. Washington Elementary School

1 message

**Sage Lewis** <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 2:19 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello LAUSD School Board and City of Los Angeles,

I am a resident living in in the LAUSD school district. My daughter is a kindergartener at Mt. Washington Elementary School. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,

Sage Lewis

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sagelewismusic.com

cell: [REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Please support LA's school teachers

1 message

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**Lisa Beebe** <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 9:18 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hi,

I'm a resident and voter living in in the Northeast school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers. I don't have kids, but many of my friends do. I believe education is one of the most essential parts of strong community.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for the children of Los Angeles. Please negotiate with UTLA and work to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Thanks.





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Teacher's union negotiations

1 message

david ury [REDACTED]

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 5:03 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I'm a parent of a soon to be Castle Heights elementary student living in the BeverlyWood area. I would like to express my support for UTLA. In order to preserve quality public education in LA for children like mine and future generations, I urge all school board members to negotiate with the union in good faith and meet the reasonable demands of the union.

Thank you for your time,  
David Ury



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## UTLA

1 message

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Ellen <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 9:39 PM

Hello Mayor Garcetti,

I am a resident living in in the Eagle Rock, Los Angeles school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay, are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Thank you.

Best,

Ellen Readinger

Sent from my phone



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## Support Public School teachers

1 message

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 9:42 PM  
To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net,  
scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net,  
richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the West Hollywood school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,

Susan Mathison  
[REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## supporting UTLA

1 message

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Janelle Brown <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 10:08 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident with two children in in the Ivanhoe Elementary school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,  
Janelle Brown



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## PLEASE support our teachers

1 message

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emily mast <[REDACTED]>  
To: emily mast <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 10:19 PM

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the Mt. Washington school district. I am writing to urge you to please help our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

I believe in the teachers at MWE! You should as well.

Best,  
Emily Mast

...

[www.emilymast.com](http://www.emilymast.com)

tel [REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Public education is the backbone of democracy! I stand with public school teachers.

1 message

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**Aretha Amelia Sills** <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 11:44 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Dear School Board Members and Mayor Garcetti,

I live in Lake Balboa and my child attends Lemay Street Elementary School. I am writing to strongly urge you to support our dedicated public school teachers and to meet their demands.

Class sizes are too large and the charter lobby is demanding too many precious resources from public schools. Our teachers deserve a living wage and our children and this community deserve a great, well funded school with a nurse more than one day a week!

Public education is the backbone of our democracy. Gut our public schools and our whole country suffers!

I support UTLA because they support our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work to avoid a strike by meeting their very reasonable demands.

Sincerely,

Aretha Sills  
[REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## I Support the UTLA

1 message

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**Diana Bao Hollis** <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Oct 17, 2018 at 5:31 PM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Mr Garcetti,

I am a resident living in in the Mount Washington school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Thank you,  
Diana Bao-Hollis  
[REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## LAUSD Contract Negotiations

1 message

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**Dan Peirson** <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Oct 17, 2018 at 5:33 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident living in the Mount Washington School school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the contract they deserve.

My daughter has just started in Kindergarten, and I can't stress how positive my family's experience of public schooling in LA has been so far. I had heard how the transition into Kindergarten is notoriously difficult, but I've been incredibly impressed by the way school staff have managed this transition for my daughter with tremendous care. The high standard of instruction and immense dedication of the school's teachers is overwhelming.

As these first weeks at Kindergarten have played out, I've also been following the ongoing negotiations between the school board and UTLA with increasing concern. The tone and manner with which you have engaged with the teachers representatives has been of particular concern - at times questioning their professionalism and dedication to pupils, suggestions that couldn't be more at odds with the evidence I see on a daily basis from our school.

The requests of the teaching union are reasonable. Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands. Please do not underestimate parents' support for our children's teachers.

Thank you for reading.

Yours sincerely

Dan Peirson





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Approve the UTLA contract that they want!

1 message

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Tamar Rosenthal <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Oct 17, 2018 at 6:49 PM

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

I am a resident living in in the Franklin High School district. My son went to Franklin and graduated first in his class. He had the option to go to many other schools but we chose to support the public schools! I am writing to urge you to **support our public school teachers** and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children.

It is a **FAIR CONTRACT** that they are asking for. **I am willing to pay higher taxes in order for this to happen!**

I stand with the United Teacher's Union and I stand with our kids.

I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

With all sincerity,  
Tamar Rosenthal



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## UTLA Negotiations

1 message

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**Leah Ferrazzani** <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Oct 17, 2018 at 6:56 PM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the Mount Washington School school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,

Leah Ferrazzani  
Semolina Artisanal Pasta  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Follow Semolina on Instagram Facebook and Twitter



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Support for UTLA, small class size and non-charter public classrooms

1 message

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**Jennifer Giles Adams** <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Oct 17, 2018 at 9:02 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Esteemed Public Servants:

I am a resident living in in the Mount Washington School school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,

Jennifer Giles Adams  
[REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## UTLA

1 message

---

**Greg Smokler** <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Oct 18, 2018 at 11:33 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the Mount Washington School school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Thank you,

Greg Smokler  
[REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## UTLA contract negotiations: I support our teachers

1 message

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Jennifer Peterson <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Oct 18, 2018 at 12:29 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the Mount Washington School school district. Our younger son goes to Kindergarten at Mt. Washington elementary, and our older son has just finished at Mt. Washington and now attends King Middle School. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best regards,  
Jennifer Peterson

---

Jennifer L. Peterson, PhD  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Communication  
School of Media, Culture & Design  
Woodbury University  
7500 N. Glenoaks Boulevard  
Burbank, CA 91504-7846

Office: 818-252-5206  
jennifer.peterson@woodbury.edu



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## RE: UTLA -- Not-a-room-rep

1 message

**Beutner, Austin** <austin.beutner@lausd.net>

Thu, Oct 18, 2018 at 12:52 PM

To: Jennifer Peterson <[REDACTED]>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "Beutner, Austin" <austin.beutner@lausd.net>

Hello Jennifer,

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your sharing your views.

All of us at L.A. Unified care about teachers and all the dedicated employees who work hard every day to help our students succeed. We wish to reduce class size and increase the number of librarians, nurses and counselors in our schools. There is no disagreement about that.

L.A. Unified is working towards a resolution of the issues and remains committed to the lawful bargaining process to avoid a strike that would harm L.A.'s most vulnerable students and families. L.A. Unified has made its position public in an op-ed in the LA Times which you can find [here](#). Also attached are answers to some frequently asked questions. For more information, you can visit the L.A. Unified [website](#).

The courage and resilience of our students and families are inspiring. We need to demonstrate that same kind of courage and resilience to improve Los Angeles schools.

Thank you,

Austin Beutner

Superintendent

Los Angeles Unified School District

Austin.beutner@lausd.net

(213) 241-7000

**From:** Jennifer Peterson <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2018 12:29 PM

**To:** Mckenna, George <george.mckenna@lausd.net>; García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net>; Schmerelson, Scott M. <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>; Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET>; Gonez, Kelly <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>; Vladovic, Richard <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; Beutner, Austin <austin.beutner@lausd.net>

**Subject:** Fwd: UTLA -- Not-a-room-rep

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the Mount Washington School school district. Our younger son goes to Kindergarten at Mt. Washington elementary, and our older son has just finished at Mt. Washington and now attends King Middle School. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best regards,

Jennifer Peterson

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Jennifer L. Peterson, PhD  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Communication  
School of Media, Culture & Design  
Woodbury University  
7500 N. Glenoaks Boulevard  
Burbank, CA 91504-7846

Office: 818-252-5206  
jennifer.peterson@woodbury.edu



**FAQs 10-12-18.pdf**  
126K

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# Los Angeles Unified

## Frequently Asked Questions

### The community wants to lower class size, hire more librarians, nurses and counselors. How come that all can't be done now?

There are great teachers in all of our schools. Los Angeles Unified needs to pay them better, and provide them with more support and more professional development.

L.A. Unified wants smaller class sizes, more school librarians, nurses, and counselors. The question is, where does the money come from to pay for it?

The annual cost of all of these together is approximately \$800 Million. Because L.A. Unified already has an annual operating deficit of \$500 Million, it simply can't afford to spend an additional \$800 Million each year at this time.

### What about the \$1.8 Billion in savings? What happens when that runs out?

\$1.8 Billion is mistakenly cited as the District's available savings but about \$500 Million of that is already committed for federal and state required programs such as resources used to support students in poverty with tutoring and intervention programs.

All of the remaining \$1.3 Billion will be spent over the next 24 months or so to fund the operating deficit. If L.A. Unified exhausts its savings, the school district will be placed into state receivership.

L.A. Unified has proposed to UTLA that the parties bring in an independent auditor to examine the financial records of L.A. Unified in order to make certain both parties are working from the same set of facts. UTLA has refused this offer.

While each party is entitled to their own opinions, they must both agree on the same set of facts.

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# Los Angeles Unified

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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$880 Million</b>

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## RE: UTLA

1 message

**Beutner, Austin** <austin.beutner@lausd.net>

Thu, Oct 18, 2018 at 1:00 PM

To: Greg Smokler <[REDACTED]>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Dear Greg,

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your sharing your views.

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L.A. Unified is working towards a resolution of the issues and remains committed to the lawful bargaining process to avoid a strike that would harm L.A.'s most vulnerable students and families. L.A. Unified has made its position public in an op-ed in the LA Times which you can find [here](#). Also attached are answers to some frequently asked questions. For more information, you can visit the L.A. Unified [website](#).

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Thank you,

Austin Beutner

Superintendent

Los Angeles Unified School District

Austin.beutner@lausd.net

(213) 241-7000

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**From:** Greg Smokler <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2018 11:33 AM  
**To:** Beutner, Austin <austin.beutner@lausd.net>; Mckenna, George <george.mckenna@lausd.net>; García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net>; Schmerelson, Scott M. <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>; Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET>; Gonez, Kelly <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>; Vladovic, Richard <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org  
**Subject:** UTLA

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Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Thank you,

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## RE: Support for UTLA, small class size and non-charter public classrooms

1 message

**Beutner, Austin** <austin.beutner@lausd.net>

Thu, Oct 18, 2018 at 2:01 PM

To: Jennifer Giles Adams <[REDACTED]>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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My daughter has just started in Kindergarten, and I can't stress how positive my family's experience of public schooling in LA has been so far. I had heard how the transition into Kindergarten is notoriously difficult, but I've been incredibly impressed by the way school staff have managed this transition for my daughter with tremendous care. The high standard of instruction and immense dedication of the school's teachers is overwhelming.

As these first weeks at Kindergarten have played out, I've also been following the ongoing negotiations between the school board and UTLA with increasing concern. The tone and manner with which you have engaged with the teachers representatives has been of particular concern - at times questioning their professionalism and dedication to pupils, suggestions that couldn't be more at odds with the evidence I see on a daily basis from our school.

The requests of the teaching union are reasonable. Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands. Please do not underestimate parents' support for our children's teachers.

Thank you for reading.

Yours sincerely

Dan Peirson

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# Los Angeles Unified

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Please support our public school teachers!

1 message

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**Hannah Cassell** <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Oct 18, 2018 at 2:13 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a mother of 2 and a resident living in the Mount Washington school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the contract they deserve.

The requests of the teaching union are reasonable. Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Please do not underestimate parents' support for our children's teachers.

Thank you for reading.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Cassell





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## RE: UTLA Contract Should Result in a More Enriched and Just Educational Environment

1 message

**Beutner, Austin** <austin.beutner@lausd.net>

Thu, Oct 18, 2018 at 2:24 PM

To: Needra Jenkins <[REDACTED]>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your sharing your views.

All of us at L.A. Unified care about teachers and all the dedicated employees who work hard every day to help our students succeed. We also wish to reduce class size and increase the number of librarians, nurses and counselors in our schools. There is no disagreement about that.

L.A. Unified is working towards a resolution of the issues and remains committed to the lawful bargaining process to avoid a strike that would harm L.A.'s most vulnerable students and families. L.A. Unified has made its position public in an op-ed in the LA Times which you can find [here](#). Also attached are answers to some frequently asked questions. For more information, you can visit the L.A. Unified [website](#).

The courage and resilience of our students and families are inspiring. We need to demonstrate that same kind of courage and resilience to improve Los Angeles schools.

Thank you,

Austin Beutner

Superintendent

Los Angeles Unified School District

Austin.beutner@lausd.net

(213) 241-7000

**From:** Needra Jenkins <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 17, 2018 12:41 PM  
**To:** Beutner, Austin <austin.beutner@lausd.net>; Mckenna, George <george.mckenna@lausd.net>; García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net>; Schmerelson, Scott M. <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>; Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET>; Gonez, Kelly <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>; Vladovic, Richard <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org  
**Subject:** UTLA Contract Should Result in a More Enriched and Just Educational Environment

Good Afternoon,

My three elementary children attend LAUSD. I support UTLA's position on class size and staffing, academic freedom, professional development, special education, leaves and absences, revenue, student rights and support, early education, student discipline, immigrant family support, affordable housing, school accountability, and green space.

Having attended Saturn Elementary and now sending my children to Mount Washington Elementary, **I understand the important impact that our district and teachers have in creating an enriched and just educational environment. The UTLA contract has a direct impact on building, nurturing and maintaining this environment.**

I urge you to come to the table and negotiate, especially on those sticky issues where the LAUSD negotiating team may resist bargaining. You are empowered to make a substantive difference in our children's lives, as well as to avoid a strike.

Best,

Needra Jenkins



126K



## Los Angeles Unified Frequently Asked Questions

### The community wants to lower class size, hire more librarians, nurses and counselors. How come that all can't be done now?

- There are great teachers in all of our schools. Los Angeles Unified needs to pay them better, and provide them with more support and more professional development.

L.A. Unified wants smaller class sizes, more school librarians, nurses, and counselors. The question is, where does the money come from to pay for it?

The annual cost of all of these together is approximately \$800 Million. Because L.A. Unified already has an annual operating deficit of \$500 Million, it simply can't afford to spend an additional \$800 Million each year at this time.

### What about the \$1.8 Billion in savings? What happens when that runs out?

\$1.8 Billion is mistakenly cited as the District's available savings but about \$500 Million of that is already committed for federal and state required programs such as resources used to support students in poverty with tutoring and intervention programs.

All of the remaining \$1.3 Billion will be spent over the next 24 months or so to fund the operating deficit. If L.A. Unified exhausts its savings, the school district will be placed into state receivership.

L.A. Unified has proposed to UTLA that the parties bring in an independent auditor to examine the financial records of L.A. Unified in order to make certain both parties are working from the same set of facts. UTLA has refused this offer.

While each party is entitled to their own opinions, they must both agree on the same set of facts.

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\$ 1.3 Billion in total. The total cost of UTLA's demands would immediately bankrupt L.A. Unified and lead to the layoff of over 12,000 employees, including teachers. L.A. Unified simply does not have the money to pay for UTLA's demands.

Under UTLA's plan, \$500 Million would be spent for work done two years ago.

An additional cost of \$800 Million would be added each year to L.A. Unified's annual operating deficit.

### What has L.A. Unified has offered UTLA?

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## RE: Parent of Mt. Washington Elementary School

1 message

**Beutner, Austin** <austin.beutner@lausd.net>

Thu, Oct 18, 2018 at 3:00 PM

To: Sage Lewis <[REDACTED]>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your sharing your views.

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**From:** Sage Lewis <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 16, 2018 2:19 PM

**To:** Beutner, Austin <austin.beutner@lausd.net>; Mckenna, George <george.mckenna@lausd.net>; García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net>; Schmerelson, Scott M. <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>; Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET>; Gonez, Kelly <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>; Vladovic, Richard <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

**Subject:** Parent of Mt. Washington Elementary School

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Sage Lewis

--

sagelewismusic.com

cell: [REDACTED]



FAQs 10-12-18.pdf

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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**Kim MacDonald** <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Oct 19, 2018 at 2:30 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello,

I am a resident living in the LAUSD school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned. These teachers all put in overtime work with NO compensation and buy supplies for their class so they can do their job the best way they can with also NO compensation. It blows my mind anyone can survive under these condition when it is the MOST important job for the betterment of humanity. Strengthening our education system only will in turn strengthen our society which will strengthen our economy. It all starts with our kids (and YOU!)

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,  
Kim MacDonald





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## Support for UTLA Teachers

1 message

Rachel Earle <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Oct 22, 2018 at 9:42 AM

To: "austin.beutner@lausd.net" <austin.beutner@lausd.net>, "george.mckenna@lausd.net" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "monica.garcia@lausd.net" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "scott.schmerelson@lausd.net" <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "nick.melvoin@lausd.net" <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>, "kelly.gonez@lausd.net" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "richard.vladovic@lausd.net" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Hello,

I am a resident living in in the LA County school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they need to create a better school environment and a stronger Los Angeles community.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Thank you for your time,

Rachel Earle



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## UTLA

1 message

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**Christine Rhoden** <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 23, 2018 at 5:16 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

> Hello,  
>

> I am a resident living in the Ivanhoe Elementary school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

>  
> Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

>  
> Best,  
> Christine Rhoden



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## Fwd: Supporting UTLA Teachers

1 message

Melissa Lo <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Oct 31, 2018 at 12:00 PM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hello, Mayor Garcetti,

I am a resident living in in the Cheremoya Avenue Elementary school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they need to create a better school environment and stronger Los Angeles community.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

With all my best,  
Melissa Lo



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## RE: Please support LAUSD teachers!!

1 message

**Beutner, Austin** <austin.beutner@lausd.net>

Tue, Nov 6, 2018 at 12:44 PM

To: Kim Fay <[REDACTED]>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your sharing your views.

All of us at L.A. Unified care about teachers and all the dedicated employees who work hard every day to help our students succeed. We also wish to reduce class size and increase the number of librarians, nurses and counselors in our schools. There is no disagreement about that.

L.A. Unified is working towards a resolution of the issues and remains committed to the lawful bargaining process to avoid a strike that would harm L.A.'s most vulnerable students and families. L.A. Unified has made its position public in an op-ed in the LA Times which you can find [here](#). Also attached are answers to some frequently asked questions. For more information, you can visit the L.A. Unified [website](#).

The courage and resilience of our students and families are inspiring. We need to demonstrate that same kind of courage and resilience to improve Los Angeles schools.

Thank you,

Austin Beutner

Superintendent

Los Angeles Unified School District

Austin.beutner@lausd.net

(213) 241-7000

**From:** Kim Fay <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Saturday, October 20, 2018 12:34 PM

**To:** Beutner, Austin <austin.beutner@lausd.net>; Mckenna, George <george.mckenna@lausd.net>; García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net>; Schmerelson, Scott M. <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>; Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET>; Gonez, Kelly <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>; Vladovic, Richard <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

**Subject:** Please support LAUSD teachers!!

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Dear Fellow Lovers of Education!

I am a resident living in in the Los Angeles School District. For the past 18 years I have volunteered as a tutor, working with children in this district, and I have witnessed firsthand how under-served our local teachers are. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers and give them the support they have earned.

Limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children. I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I ask that you negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

With respect,

Kim Fay

Alexandria House After School Program



**11-02-18 In Support of Students.pdf**

142K



# Los Angeles Unified In Support of Students

The students, families and teachers of Los Angeles Unified deserve more. Our challenge is to make sure every school is a place of great teaching and learning.

At every Los Angeles Unified school, there are dedicated and hardworking teachers who are doing everything they can to help our students and we need to do more to provide teachers with better pay, support and professional development.

Instead of L.A. Unified and UTLA fighting each other, we need to work together, alongside all of our other labor partners, students, families and communities, to increase funding for public education.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**The community wants to lower class size, hire more librarians, nurses and counselors. How come that all can't be done now?**

There are great teachers in all of our schools. Los Angeles Unified needs to pay them better, and provide them with more support and more professional development.

L.A. Unified wants smaller class sizes, more school librarians, nurses, and counselors. The question is, where does the money come from to pay for it?

The annual cost of all of these together is approximately \$800 Million. Because L.A. Unified already has an annual operating deficit of \$500 Million, it simply can't afford to spend an additional \$800 Million each year at this time.

**What about the \$1.8 Billion in savings? What happens when that runs out?**

L.A. Unified is already using its savings to provide a 6% pay raise for teachers, pay for nurses, counselors and librarians, and address class size.

When the new school year begins in July 2019, L.A. Unified will only have about \$700 Million of savings left.

\$1.8 Billion is mistakenly cited as the District's available savings but about \$500 Million of that is already committed for federal and state required programs such as resources used to support students in poverty with tutoring and intervention programs.

All of the remaining \$1.3 Billion will be spent over the next 24 months or so to fund the operating deficit. If L.A. Unified exhausts its savings, the school district will be placed into state receivership.

L.A. Unified has proposed to UTLA that the parties bring in an independent auditor to examine the financial records of L.A. Unified in order to make certain both parties are working from the same set of facts. UTLA has refused this offer.

While each party is entitled to their own opinions, they must both agree on the same set of facts.



## Los Angeles Unified In Support of Students

What is the current and forecasted operating deficit of L.A. Unified? \$1.8 Billion sounds like a lot of money. Won't that pay for everything?

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Revenue	\$7.5 B	\$7.3 B	\$7.2 B	\$7.3 B	\$7.2 B
Costs	\$8.0 B	\$7.7 B	\$7.7 B	\$7.8 B	\$7.9 B
Deficit	-\$500 M	-\$400 M	-\$500 M	-\$600 M	-\$700 M
Savings at Beginning of Year	\$1.3 B	\$0.8 B	\$0.4 B	-\$0.1 B	-\$0.7 B
Less Deficit	-\$0.5 B	-\$0.4 B	-\$0.5 B	-0.6 B	-\$0.7 B
Savings at End of Year	\$0.8 B	\$0.4 B	-\$0.1 B	-\$0.7 B	-\$1.4 B

UTLA has refused to even acknowledge the recurring deficit and has not offered any plans or proposals to address the issue. If L.A. Unified continues to run operating deficits, it will exhaust its savings and become insolvent. This will happen sometime in the next 2-3 years unless something changes.

**What is the per student funding of L.A. Unified and how is it set?**

\$16,000

L.A. Unified gets about 90% of its funding from the state of California, the remaining money comes from the federal government.

The California state legislature sets the per student amount, but L.A. Unified and UTLA can work together to try to convince the legislature to increase funding for Los Angeles schools.

**What is the cost of UTLA's "Last, Best and Final" contract demands? What are the implications?**

\$ 1.3 Billion in total. The total cost of UTLA's demands would immediately bankrupt L.A. Unified and lead to the layoff of over 12,000 employees, including teachers. L.A. Unified simply does not have the money to pay for UTLA's demands.

Under UTLA's plan, \$500 Million would be spent for work done two years ago.

An additional cost of \$800 Million would be added each year to L.A. Unified's annual operating deficit.



# Los Angeles Unified In Support of Students

## What has L.A. Unified has offered UTLA?

6% pay raise for all teachers, counselors, and nurses with no contingency.

Sets firm boundaries to safeguard against increasing class sizes.

Protects healthcare benefits for all current UTLA members.

Additional pay for teachers who take courses in STEAM curriculum (science, technology, engineering, arts and math), in dual language instruction, in early literacy intervention and other areas that help teachers better support their students.

Increase transparency in labor contracts by creating a "plain language" version of the UTLA contract to help students, families and communities to have a voice in all of the issues the contract covers.

## What are some of the other changes UTLA wants in the contract?

**Magnets Schools.** UTLA wants to stop the opening of magnet schools, despite support of families and parents for magnet schools. Student enrollment at magnets has increased 35% over the last 7 years. Magnets have lower class sizes and student achievement is outperforming independent charters and the state average.

**Testing.** UTLA wants to have the sole authority to decide what tests students take. We are not aware of any other comparable school district in the nation that has this policy. Currently, L.A. Unified decides on testing with input from families, communities, educators and other stakeholders.

**Local School Spending.** UTLA wants the sole authority to decide how each school spends their funding. Currently, school principals make these decisions in consultation with community stakeholders and teachers.

## L.A. Unified employees earn lifetime healthcare benefits when their age plus years of service equal 85. What is the Rule of 87?

The change to the Rule of 87 will have no impact on any employee of L.A. Unified hired before July 1, 2019. Rule of 87 refers to only new employees hired on July 1, 2019 or after.

## L.A. Unified and UTLA have begun Mediation. What does that mean? And how long will it take?

L.A. Unified and UTLA have entered a Mediation process as required by California law. The Mediation process will continue as long as both L.A. Unified and UTLA are bargaining and working towards a resolution.

L.A. Unified remains committed to the Mediation process and to any other way to resolve the issues fairly and transparently to prevent a strike that would hurt students and families.

If Mediation is not successful, L.A. Unified and UTLA will enter Fact Finding. In Fact Finding a three member panel will look at the facts and make a determination about the issues.





## Los Angeles Unified In Support of Students

I still want to lower class sizes, more teachers, librarians, nurses and counselors in schools. How much would these cost each year?

Class Size Reduction	\$275 Million
More Counselors and Librarians	\$19
Nurse in Every School	\$72
Additional Special Education Staffing	\$263
School Support Position for Every 400 Students	\$227
Salary Increase – Difference Between 6% and 6.5%	\$24
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$880 Million</b>

Why is the annual operating deficit increasing each year?

Costs for pension and healthcare benefits are increasing. Benefits costs are about 21.3%% of the current budget and will grow to 23.3% by 2020-21.

	2009-10	2021-22
Pension	\$0.33 B	\$0.75B
Healthcare	\$0.94 B	\$1.28 B
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.27 B</b>	<b>\$2.03 B</b>

	Per Student	
	2009-10	2021-22
Pension	\$533	\$1,692
Healthcare	\$1,528	\$2,888
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,061</b>	<b>\$4,580</b>

The current cost of benefits, \$1,906.00 per student, is more than L.A. Unified spends on English and math instruction.



## Los Angeles Unified In Support of Students

Have any other outside experts looked at these issues?

Yes, L.A. Unified has heard from the LA County Office of Education, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, of California, outside panels (Cortines 2015, Advisory Task Force 2018), and financial experts of HLH2. All have warned L.A. Unified of its perilous financial state.

*"Yes, my presence is indicative that this is serious."*

- Nick Schweizer, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Sep 2018

*"The problem is that these reductions [L.A. Unified's fiscal stabilization plan] do not eliminate the structural deficit in the district's budget-so there is more work that needs to be done. The fact is that L.A. Unified [Budget] is \*NOT\* too big to fail, so it is up to all of us to resolve the district's fiscal challenges"*

- Candi Clark, CFO, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Aug, 2018

*"As the District works to increase investments critical to student learning, it must also address a looming, large budget deficit. LA Unified is facing a structural budget deficit which threatens its long-term viability and its ability to deliver basic education programs. The District's own forecasts show it will have exhausted its reserve fund balance by 2020-21, will have a budget deficit of \$400 million in 2020-21, and therefore be insolvent."*

- L.A. Unified Advisory Task Force (King Report), Jun 2018

*The LAUSD is facing a significant structural deficit in its operating budget that threatens the District's long-term financial viability.*

- Report of the Independent Financial Review Panel (Cortines Report), Nov 2015

*"The Unassigned Ending Balance for fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23 is a shortfall position (deficit) of \$418.9 million and \$880.1 million, respectively. Additionally, the 1.0 percent minimum reserve condition is not met commencing in fiscal year 2021-22."*

- Los Angeles Unified School District Projected Financial Position Analysis, Houlihan Lokey, Sep, 2018



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## RE: In support of our teachers

1 message

**Beutner, Austin** <austin.beutner@lausd.net>

Tue, Nov 6, 2018 at 12:51 PM

To: Betty K <[REDACTED]>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your sharing your views.

All of us at L.A. Unified care about teachers and all the dedicated employees who work hard every day to help our students succeed. We also wish to reduce class size and increase the number of librarians, nurses and counselors in our schools. There is no disagreement about that.

L.A. Unified is working towards a resolution of the issues and remains committed to the lawful bargaining process to avoid a strike that would harm L.A.'s most vulnerable students and families. L.A. Unified has made its position public in an op-ed in the LA Times which you can find: <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-beutner-lausd-utla-mediation-20180925-story.html>. Also attached are answers to some frequently asked questions. For more information, you can visit the L.A. Unified <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/15078>.

The courage and resilience of our students and families are inspiring. We need to demonstrate that same kind of courage and resilience to improve Los Angeles schools.

Thank you,

Austin Beutner  
Superintendent  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
Austin.beutner@lausd.net  
(213) 241-7000

---Original Message----

From: Betty K <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2018 12:23 PM

To: Beutner, Austin <austin.beutner@lausd.net>; Mckenna, George <george.mckenna@lausd.net>; García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net>; Schmerelson, Scott M. <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>; Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET>; Gonez, Kelly <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>; Vladovic, Richard <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org  
Subject: In support of our teachers

Hello,

I live in in the Mt. Washington school district. I am writing to urge you to support our public school teachers.

I feel very strongly that limiting class sizes, not bowing to the charter lobby, and fair pay are not only best for teachers, but for our communities and our children.

I stand with UTLA, for our kids. I expect you to negotiate in good faith with UTLA and work swiftly and diligently to avoid a strike by meeting their demands.

Best,  
Betty Lourie



**11-02-18 In Support of Students.pdf**

142K



## Los Angeles Unified In Support of Students

The students, families and teachers of Los Angeles Unified deserve more. Our challenge is to make sure every school is a place of great teaching and learning.

At every Los Angeles Unified school, there are dedicated and hardworking teachers who are doing everything they can to help our students and we need to do more to provide teachers with better pay, support and professional development.

Instead of L.A. Unified and UTLA fighting each other, we need to work together, alongside all of our other labor partners, students, families and communities, to increase funding for public education.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**The community wants to lower class size, hire more librarians, nurses and counselors. How come that all can't be done now?**

There are great teachers in all of our schools. Los Angeles Unified needs to pay them better, and provide them with more support and more professional development.

L.A. Unified wants smaller class sizes, more school librarians, nurses, and counselors. The question is, where does the money come from to pay for it?

The annual cost of all of these together is approximately \$800 Million. Because L.A. Unified already has an annual operating deficit of \$500 Million, it simply can't afford to spend an additional \$800 Million each year at this time.

**What about the \$1.8 Billion in savings? What happens when that runs out?**

L.A. Unified is already using its savings to provide a 6% pay raise for teachers, pay for nurses, counselors and librarians, and address class size.

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## Los Angeles Unified In Support of Students

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## Los Angeles Unified In Support of Students

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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$880 Million</b>

### Why is the annual operating deficit increasing each year?

Costs for pension and healthcare benefits are increasing. Benefits costs are about 21.3%% of the current budget and will grow to 23.3% by 2020-21.

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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.27 B</b>	<b>\$2.03 B</b>

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Pension	\$533	\$1,692
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,061</b>	<b>\$4,580</b>

The current cost of benefits, \$1,906.00 per student, is more than L.A. Unified spends on English and math instruction.





## Los Angeles Unified In Support of Students

### Have any other outside experts looked at these issues?

Yes, L.A. Unified has heard from the LA County Office of Education, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, of California, outside panels (Cortines 2015, Advisory Task Force 2018), and financial experts of HLH2. All have warned L.A. Unified of its perilous financial state.

*"Yes, my presence is indicative that this is serious."*

- Nick Schweizer, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Sep 2018

*"The problem is that these reductions [L.A. Unified's fiscal stabilization plan] do not eliminate the structural deficit in the district's budget-so there is more work that needs to be done. The fact is that L.A. Unified [Budget] is \*NOT\* too big to fail, so it is up to all of us to resolve the district's fiscal challenges"*

- Candi Clark, CFO, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Aug, 2018

*"As the District works to increase investments critical to student learning, it must also address a looming, large budget deficit. LA Unified is facing a structural budget deficit which threatens its long-term viability and its ability to deliver basic education programs. The District's own forecasts show it will have exhausted its reserve fund balance by 2020-21, will have a budget deficit of \$400 million in 2020-21, and therefore be insolvent."*

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*"The Unassigned Ending Balance for fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23 is a shortfall position (deficit) of \$418.9 million and \$880.1 million, respectively. Additionally, the 1.0 percent minimum reserve condition is not met commencing in fiscal year 2021-22."*

- Los Angeles Unified School District Projected Financial Position Analysis, Houlihan Lokey, Sep, 2018



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## please encourage the school board to act

1 message

Nora Murphy <[REDACTED]>  
To: "cc:" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 12, 2018 at 7:55 PM

Mayor Garcetti,

Below is the email I sent to school board members today. Please do whatever you can to get them to do the right thing. This is, frankly, absurd. The teachers are asking for pennies.

Thank you,  
Nora Murphy

Dear members of the school board,

I taught in LAUSD for eleven rewarding, challenging, roller-coaster-ride years. I am the person and educator that I am today because of it. I am now a parent of an LAUSD student and I feel both elated to be part of public education again and conflicted over what I know about this district as an insider. I will tell you this, my family will be picketing with my child's teachers because what they are asking for is the bare minimum any school district should provide for its schools, its families, its students. We stay home in protest because we can, and we know that is a privileged position to hold. How do you plan to adequately care for the hundreds of thousands of children whose families do not have that option? How many qualified childcare professionals do you have ready to care for the lives that will be in your hands as your beleaguered, undervalued, underpaid, under-served teachers do the *only thing left* they can possibly do to get through to you? *No teacher* wants to strike, you know. Teachers work through illness, through family hardship, through grief in order to care for their students. If they are going to strike, it's because the situation is dire.

The school district is a public trust. We decided long ago, *as a nation*, that our children would be educated. We decided, as a nation, that this is the bedrock of our democracy. The requests being made by UTLA are neither excessive nor unreasonable. They are not out of reach for this school district. They are basic, fundamental, obvious needs. Will any of you *really* argue that teachers need not be paid what they are worth? Even what they are asking is *far less* than what they are

worth, what they pour into their work, what they dedicate their lives to. Will you argue that my son doesn't need a medical professional on his campus at all times? Will you tell me that he doesn't need a librarian, that librarians are obsolete, that children intuitively use iPads and therefore no longer need curators of information? Will you tell me that my son will get the attention he needs from his teachers when there are thirty students in the room? I don't think you will, and I don't think you could justify these things if you tried.

**At a time when our national character is threatened, when our fundamental values are being challenged, where will you stand?** I know how this school district functions and I can tell you where to find the money. **Stop** buying canned curriculum every 3-5 years and sending thousands of teachers to unnecessary training. **Stop** buying trendy gadgets and stop, ***please stop*** hopping onto flimsy bandwagons. Think about what you want for your children, your best friend's children, your sibling's children, your grandchildren when you are making decisions about *my* child. Give the money to the teachers, please! They are the ones who are actually, really, **fundamentally, truly shaping the future of this nation**. Give them the money so they don't *go away* and leave this task to...I can't even imagine.

Fewer kids in the room, a living wage, nurses, libraries. That's the ask. It is unconscionable that you would refuse such a humble, modest, reasonable, ethical, moral request.

My family will not cross the picket line.

Sincerely,



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Please help negotiate w LAUSD and UTLA

1 message

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Dayna Greenspan <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 2, 2019 at 6:09 PM

Mayor Garetti - please help with the negotiations between teachers and LAUSD. We don't want the strike. You can help resolve the conflict!

Sent from my iPhone



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## help settle the upcoming teacher strike

1 message

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**Belinda Mossler** <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Sun, Dec 30, 2018 at 5:15 PM

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

Please use your influence to help settle the upcoming strike on Jan.10. You know all of the major people involved on both sides. This city is going to truly be affected if there is a teacher strike. The teachers deserve more assistance to help serve the children of Los Angeles. Lowering class size, additional staff, and a 6.5 raise is not much too ask for when there are hefty reserves, (almost 2 billion).

Teachers are the reason for these reserves. Teachers buy supplies, write grants for basic needs like tables, chairs, paper, pencils and other classroom supplies. Classrooms are cleaned once a week. Teachers need to clean the other four days if they want a clean classroom. Drinking fountains with high lead content are turned off and not fixed leaving students to bring their own water to school. Why is that ok? When did we turn into Flint? Light bulbs won't be changed. Not kidding!!! HELP!!!!

Teachers and parents are in agreement with what the children of Los Angeles need. Are you? We will remember your involvement.

Respectfully,

Belinda Mossler



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## Stop LAUSD Strike and Help Homelessness All At One Time

1 message

v leon <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jan 3, 2019 at 11:30 AM

To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "lacityatty@lacity.org" <lacityatty@lacity.org>, "controller.galperin@lacity.org" <controller.galperin@lacity.org>, "councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org" <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, "councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org" <councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "david.ryu@lacity.org" <david.ryu@lacity.org>, "paul.koretz@lacity.org" <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "councilmember.martinez@lacity.org" <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, "councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org" <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, "councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.price@lacity.org" <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "councilmember.wesson@lacity.org" <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.bonin@lacity.org" <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, "councilmember.englander@lacity.org" <councilmember.englander@lacity.org>, "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, "councilmember.huizar@lacity.org" <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>, "councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org" <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, "planning@lacity.org" <planning@lacity.org>, "cdd.ccfsinfo@lacity.org" <cdd.ccfsinfo@lacity.org>, "HRCinfo@lacity.org" <HRCinfo@lacity.org>, "info@EmpowerLA.org" <info@empowerla.org>

You can stop the LAUSD Strike and help the homeless by leasing one or more schools to the city. You will need to match a school which may be closing anyways due to low enrollment with an area that has a high homeless population.

By leasing the school for a set period, LAUSD will still retain the property that will increase in value over the years and may one day become a school again if the need arises. The school already has a cafeteria, auditorium, and plenty of classrooms that may be renovated into dormitories.

The details will have to come later, but the overall idea may be used to free up the money in LAUSD's emergency fund to avoid the strike since both sides will know that the homeless project will be bringing income back to LAUSD.

Any one of us may be homeless tomorrow if we have a huge earthquake. I would think that you would want a facility to live in rather than the streets of Los Angeles.

I realize that everyone is busy right now, but perhaps someone can relay this message so that we may avoid a strike in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Victoria Leon

A retired LAUSD teacher who walked the line in 1989 and will be at Huntington Drive Elementary School on January 10th...



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## I support UTLA's demands

1 message

Audrey Diehl <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Fri, Jan 4, 2019 at 4:05 PM

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

I am writing as an LAUSD parent and someone who voted for you (and who votes in EVERY election) to express my support for UTLA's contract demands and ask that you do what you can to support them in their negotiations.

I believe our teachers should receive the pay raise they are asking for, without having to roll back benefits for new teachers. Even more importantly, I believe we need a \*firm\* cap on class sizes and WAY more nurses, librarians and school psychologists on our campuses. My son's LAUSD elementary school campus only has a nurse and counselor 1 day a week, which is ridiculous. And the classes at almost every LAUSD school, including our neighborhood school, are way too large to facilitate proper learning.

I do not believe that LAUSD is being honest about their finances, and I feel they need to look at where they are spending and send more district money back to our community schools. We need to support our neighborhood PUBLIC schools, not unregulated charter schools which do not serve students consistently or well.

The children of Los Angeles deserve a great school system. And UTLA is fighting for our students. I ask that you support them and help bring a positive end to the contract negotiations.

Thank you,  
Audrey Diehl  
[REDACTED]





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## School Strke

1 message

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[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Mon, Jan 7, 2019 at 7:58 AM

Dear Mayor,

I am a real supporter of you.

You need to step in and stop this school strike. Your leadership is needed to bring the two sides together.

A strike like this can hurt your future ambitions.

Stan Stogel

Stanley Stogel and Adele Stogel

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] : [REDACTED] (fax)

Cell :

[REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## I support our teachers

1 message

Jena Schenk <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Jan 8, 2019 at 6:42 AM

To: scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, austin.beutner@lausd.net

Dear Superintendant Beutner and LAUSD Board Members:

I am a parent of a second grader and kindergartener in LAUSD and I support our teachers. I will be doing everything in my power to support the teachers across the district should they strike.

Teachers have several goals:

Smaller class sizes

More nursing, counseling and other critical staff (nurses and counselors are only at school 1 day a week.)

6% pay raise

Less mandated testing

Reinvest in special, early and adult and bilingual education

I support each of these goals and implore the district to negotiate in good faith and prevent the strike.

Sincerely,  
Jena Schenk  
Ivanhoe Elementary



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Attendance Scare tactic is a giant waste of money for a school district that claims to be broke!

1 message

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Aleigh Lewis <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Jan 9, 2019 at 11:26 AM

To: george.mckenna@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, austin.beutner@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Thanks Mr. Beutner for the January attendance update! Where is my Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec updates if this wasn't just a desperate scare tactic? Also how come you are unable to make two notices even look the same from the same school?? And for a "broke" district I'm glad you found ~\$400,000 to send parents unnecessary attendance letters when we already get two phone calls and an email if our kid is tardy or misses school. Please negotiate with the teachers in good faith to raise wages, reduce class sizes, reduce testing, increase nurses, counselors and librarians. We will be keeping our daughter home during the strike and have organizing an extensive babysitting coop at our school.

Best,

Aleigh

Parent of a kindergartner at Mt. Washington Elementary school



has missed  
5 days this school year.\*

JANUARY  
UPDATE

Dear Parent/Guardian of \_\_\_\_\_

Attending school every day in Kindergarten will help \_\_\_\_\_ learn and stay on track.

Both excused and unexcused absences can cause \_\_\_\_\_ to fall behind.

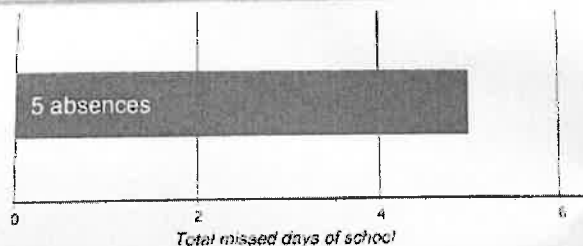
Attending school every day helps \_\_\_\_\_ build the skills and knowledge needed to be on track for next year.

Thank you for helping \_\_\_\_\_ attend school as often as possible.

Sincerely,

Austin Beutner  
Superintendent  
Los Angeles Unified School District

\_\_\_\_\_ has missed 5 days this school year



\*This is the total number of absences (unexcused and excused) between the first day of school and 12/7/2018. We understand that students sometimes miss school due to illness, religious holidays, or emergencies. Please discuss in advance with your student's school and health provider when to keep your student at home. To be connected to additional resources, please email [laus12@schoolsday.com](mailto:laus12@schoolsday.com) or call (213) 294-3839. If no longer at this address, please return the letter to sender. We apologize for the inconvenience.



has missed  
4 days this school year.\*

JANUARY  
UPDATE

Dear Parent/Guardian of

Attending school every day in Kindergarten will help learn and stay on track.

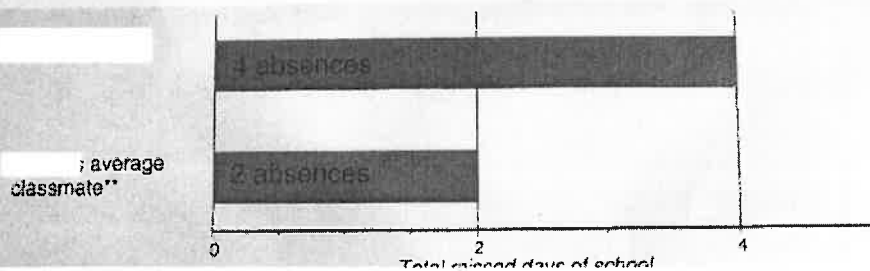
Both excused and unexcused absences can cause to fall behind.

Attending school every day helps build the skills and knowledge needed to be on track for next year.

Thank you for helping attend school as often as possible.

Sincerely,  
Austin Beutner  
Superintendent  
Los Angeles Unified School District

has missed more school than many classmates this school year





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## LAUSD Teachers/Austin Beutner

1 message

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Norma Luna <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Jan 9, 2019 at 5:12 PM

To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Dear Mr. Garcetti,

I am a very concerned parent of two kids in LAUSD schools. I am 100% supporting the teachers.

I want to know how Austin Beutner, who has no education experience is able to make choices for the teachers. As you can see from my attachment, he is not qualified and is ruining our beautiful LAUSD schools - he seem very similar to Donald Trump (A greedy, self serving liar.) As mayor of Los Angeles, is there anything you can do for the teachers? They deserve so much more!

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Norma Luna



49705011\_10156949554077154\_4938451193346129920\_n.jpg

89K

# LAUSD'S AUSTIN BEUTNER

A History of Deceit & Disruption



## What Recession?

When his company goes public, Beutner makes

**\$100M**

Mayor appoints  
Beutner Deputy of  
Econ Development,  
including DWP



LA City Controller Audit:  
DWP misled public about finances,  
the move "smacks of extortion."

Beutner runs  
for LA Mayor,  
then quits



Poll: "Beutner gets only 2% of likely voters"



Beutner & Broad  
plan to takeover  
the LA Times

## Los Angeles Times

Austin Beutner named publisher  
and CEO of Los Angeles Times



Secret Eli Broad plan  
leaked, targets areas to  
takeover public schools

## The Washington Post

Foundation fund L.A. Times'  
education reporting. A conflict?

Austin Beutner Fired  
as LA Times Publisher



Beutner picked as  
Superintendent in  
botched process

Beutner's  
secret plan for  
"32 networks"  
is leaked

Los Angeles Times  
School district plan to end decade  
L.A. school district into 32 networks



## 1990's-2000's

Beutner gets rich from hedgefund and  
private equity firms Blackstone and  
Evercore. Their specialty? Corporate  
restructuring, mergers & acquisitions.

## Jan 2010

No city government experience. Runs  
13 agencies, including the Dept of  
Water & Power. He's rich enough to  
take a salary of \$1 a year.

## Jun 2010

Claiming no money, DWP misleads  
City Council to force a hike in  
electricity rates. But DWP really has  
\$752M in a Reserve fund.

## Apr 2011-May 2012

Runs for mayor after a year at city  
hall. Quits when his campaign  
sputters with fundraising struggles,  
staff resignations, and dismal polling.

## Mar 2013

Teams up with billionaire Eli Broad in  
failed bid to buy LA Times and other  
titles. Their plan? Buy and sell off  
several smaller papers.

## Aug 2014

No journalism experience. Describes  
himself as a "news junkie" who reads  
The Times a lot.

## Jun 2015

The plan? Relocate half of LAUSD  
students into charter schools. No  
parent input, but lists possible  
funders, like Walton Foundation.

## Aug 2015

"...An ethical fail" Launches new  
education section. Fails to mention  
that Times reporters are paid by the  
same groups they're supposed to  
cover - like the Broad Foundation.

## Sep 2015

Teams up with Broad again to  
takeover the LA Times. He is soon  
fired and escorted out of the building.

## May 2018

No education experience. Gets the  
swing vote from Ref Rodriguez -  
before he pleads guilty in money  
laundering scheme. Starting salary:  
\$350,000 per year.

## Nov 2018

He pools untraceable money - mostly  
from billionaires itching to privatize  
LAUSD. Hires expensive private  
consultants that secretly carve "32  
networks," evoking examples that  
failed in Newark, Detroit and New  
Orleans.



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## Re: Looming Teacher Strike

1 message

gemma marquez <[REDACTED]> Wed, Jan 9, 2019 at 6:57 PM

To: Austin Beutner <austin.beutner@lausd.net>

Cc: "García Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, Kelly Gonez <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, Richard Vladovic <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, Nick Melvoin <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>, "raymond.lopez@lausd.net" <raymond.lopez@lausd.net>, George Mckenna <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "monica.ratliff@lausd.net" <monica.ratliff@lausd.net>, "Scott M. Schmerelson" <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Hello Beutner,

What lessons are you teaching our youngsters? In my opinion, these are the lessons that you and others are clearly highlighting to LAUSD's children.

### 1. How to lie

How will instruction continue if kids have rotation activities. Example: playground, videos, and board games

### 2. Disrespect is acceptable

Your statement that teachers aren't needed since children are able to learn on their own. Every current LAUSD Board Member should ask for your resignation. Teachers are the band-aid holding this school district together. Teachers are the district's true heroes. Teachers are the true first responders who protect children. If an active shooter is on campus, it's the teacher who will ultimately act unselfishly to protect the students.

### 3. Diplomacy doesn't matter

Walking into negotiations with a negative mindset accomplishes NOTHING!

### 4. How not to compromise

Children are taught to work through things and not give up. Perseverance being the ultimate goal.

Yet, your mindset is destructive and counterproductive!

### 5. More LIES

Closed meetings, scare tactics, and alternative facts equals childish behaviors. LAUSD students deserve BETTER!



6. Intimidation tactics

For LAUSD children this is called "bullying")

7. Poor leadership

LAUSD's lack of leadership management has resulted in a mismanaged school district

Who does this sound like? Just wondering? Your protocol and administrative actions fall in line with our country's current U.S. Administration.

Our children deserve better! Resolve this looming strike! Work out a compromise with the UTLA/Teachers!

Gemma Marquez



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Los Angeles School Kids Need Your Help!

1 message

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Joanna Belson <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Thu, Jan 10, 2019 at 8:21 AM

Dear Mr Garcetti: I am writing to you on a state level as we need your help. Our children more specifically need your help.

We are in a DIRE situation with regard to our overcrowded schools that has progressively gotten worse over the years via a corrupt charter money backed school board, mismanaged money and just blatant misinformation from LAUSD and Superintendent Austin Beutner.

**California is currently spending \$11k on our children while spending \$71K on prisoners. We demand this change. Per their own LAUSD website, our kids are only at 42% english proficiency and 31% Spanish proficiency. This is nowhere near acceptable. If this was my job performance, my boss would fire me.**

We need your support to change this model and put our kids first and not school board politics. We are a group on parents that are so invested in this fight to protect public education and fix our schools.

This too is not acceptable.

Also, i am not even sure why we are paying our board members (more then teachers). They gave them selves a 174% raise in 2017...and are scoffing at 6%.

Interesting info: "Nationally, 62.3 percent of board members report that they receive no salary, while 14.3 percent receive an annual salary of \$5,000 or more and 2 percent earn a salary of more than \$15,000 per year."

LAUSD board members earn \$50K annually (part time) and \$125K (full time)

We need to take the money off our school board in donations and salary. Not to mention many board members are also taking home a LAUSD pension (from \$125K- \$182K) at the same time.

Please support our cause for smaller class size, nurses and school counselors. I stand with teachers.

The offer yesterday, Wednesday January 9 increased class size.

Thanks! I would love to take the opportunity too to sit down with you in person. I am a passionate parent who will make a difference.

Joanna Belson (Walter Reed Middle School and Colfax Elementary)

Check out my interview from the news:

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**Video.MOV**  
3027K



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## Intervene to Avoid LAUSD Teacher's Strike and Increased Funding for Public Education

1 message

**Jonas Basom** <[REDACTED]>  
To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 10, 2019 at 1:31 PM

Mr. Garcetti,

I am a parent of two high school students in LAUSD and am very concerned about the potential teacher strike this Monday. It will be very harmful to my children's education if there is a teacher's strike. I do not feel safe to send them to school with substitutes and relaxed policies for this strike that don't even require background checks for school personnel who will be in charge of my students. Their regular classes will not be happening and my son is a junior who is getting ready for AP exams and college applications. This strike will have a negative impact on his life right now and his future.

We parents need your intervention to prevent/end this strike immediately.

Let me very clear about where I stand on the issues on the table in this strike. I am in favor of the teachers on almost all of the issues.

- 1) Give the teachers their full raise demand of 6.5% retroactive exactly as they are asking for it (not delayed or gradually implemented).
- 2) Maintain full current health benefits for all teachers.
- 3) Hire more teachers to reduce class size as the union is demanding. As a parent, I see how badly we need reduced class size. My son and daughter have some high school classes over 40 per 1 teacher. This creates a negative impact in 2 ways: first, it greatly reduces the personal attention for each student, and second, it moves education towards more information and standardization (computer, testing, sitting down), not allowing for more creative and engaging ways to teach, and making school boring and ineffective.
- 4) Spend the money to ensure a full-time nurse and full-time qualified psychologist/counselor are on campus every day and all day. There are major issues teenagers are dealing with such as drugs, sex, gender identity, bullying, depression, aggression,

stress, etc. It should be a basic requirement that all schools have qualified full-time employees to deal with the medical and emotional needs of teenagers.

\* I do not care about the union's request for full-time librarians at every campus, but a nurse and counselor are essential at all times.

5) Do not give LAUSD the power to deny charter schools or the space charter schools need. I do NOT agree with the union's attempt to gain more control over charter schools. The public schools need to do a better job competing with charter schools by providing a more well-rounded education. Charter schools are filling a need we parents have because the public schools fail to provide the kind of education we want for our children. We do need to pass a state law that holds charter schools accountable to the same laws of equity and access that apply to public schools. However, I am fully in favor of the charter school movement and public schools need to do a better job of figuring out how to provide more dynamic education with more arts, PE, creativity, and fun at school. They spend way too much money and time on standardized testing and boring approaches to teaching. Charter schools are finding more innovative ways to teach and forcing the public schools to compete and adapt. That is a good thing. The charter school issue should be ignored for this strike as it is too complex and is more about state laws and funding. It does not belong as part of this strike.

Bottom line: give the teachers what they are asking for, save the charter school questions for after and state legislation.

We need your help to increase funding for public schools so we don't end up in these strike situations. California is currently spending \$11k on our children while spending \$71k on prisoners. This should be completely the reverse. Education is preventative; prisons are reactive. We are 43rd out of 50 states in spending on public schools. I am asking you to support statewide initiatives like Schools and Communities First Act, which proposes \$5 billion dollars for schools each year while closing the carried interest loophole.

Do what is right for my children and all LAUSD and CA children: 1) prevent the strike and give the teachers what they want, and 2) increase state funding for public education

Thank you.

Jonas Basom  
Father of 2 high school students in LAUSD



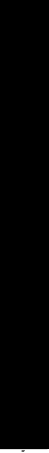
Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

**UTLA Stirke**

1 message

**Tanja Marshall**

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org



Thu, Jan 10, 2019 at 3:08 PM

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing to you on a state level as we need your help here in Los Angeles; our children need your help. We are teetering dangerously close to a strike, with LAUSD unwilling to present a fair offer to our teachers. It's time for you to intervene.

We are in a dire situation that has progressively gotten worse over the years via a corrupt charter money backed school board, mismanaged money and just blatant misinformation from LAUSD, currently helmed by Superintendent Austin Beutner.

California is currently spending \$11k on our children while spending \$71k on prisoners. This needs to change. As one of the wealthiest states, there is no reason we should be #43 out of 50 states in per student spending, while we are the 5th largest economy in the world. As an example, my son's Elementary School is regularly running out of paper. Yes, PAPER.

Prior to Proposition 13, California used to be a leader in public education funding, so we are asking you to support statewide initiatives, such as the Schools and Communities First Act for the 2020 ballot that would provide \$5 billion dollar for schools each year and close the carried interest loophole.

We need your support to change this model, putting our kids first and not school board politics. I am here to fight for my kid and for all of our kids. After all, they are the future.

Please support our cause for smaller class size, nurses and school counselors.

I stand with teachers!

Sincerely,





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Support LA Teachers

1 message

Lucero Herrera <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jan 10, 2019 at 3:22 PM

To: gavin.newsom@gov.ca, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, tony@tonythurmond.com

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti, and Mr. Thurmond,

As a mother of an LAUSD student, I am writing to you to urge you to intervene in the contract negotiations between LAUSD and UTLA. It appears that LAUSD is unwilling to present a fair offer to our teachers and it is putting our children's education at risk.

We are in a dire situation that has progressively gotten worse over the years via a corrupt charter money backed school board, mismanaged money and just blatant misinformation from LAUSD, currently helmed by Superintendent Austin Beutner.

California is currently spending \$11k on our children while spending \$71K on prisoners. This needs to change. As one of the wealthiest states, there is no reason we should be #43 out of 50 in per student spending, while we are the 5th largest economy in the WORLD.

Prior to Proposition 13, California used to be a leader in public education funding, so we are asking you to support statewide initiatives such as the Schools and Communities First Act for the 2020 ballot that would provide \$5 billion dollars for schools each year and close the carried interest loophole.

We need your support to change this model, putting our kids first and not school board politics. I am here to fight for my kid, and for all of our kids.

Please support our cause for smaller class size, nurses and school counselors. My family, community and I stand with teachers.

Thank you,

--

Lucero E. Herrera  
[REDACTED]





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## SUPPORT LAUSD TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

1 message

shanna petersil <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jan 10, 2019 at 3:32 PM

To: Shanna <[REDACTED]>

Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, tony@tonythurmond.com

Dear

We in Los Angeles Unified School district are in a horrible situation. We have a money hungry, charter friendly school board who is damaging the education of my child and all children in our neighborhood public schools. Without a doubt in the next election I will not be voting for a pro charter candidate. BUT as for now we are stuck with these representatives who have allowed Superintendent Beutner to run the contract negotiations into the ground. This impending strike needs to be stopped with your help. We need a resolution that puts students and teachers first. Please support our cause for smaller classes, more nurses and school counselors, AND more oversight of charter schools.

Support the Schools and Communities First Act for 2020 ballot, too.

Warmly,

Shanna Petersil

Proud LAUSD graduate, teacher and parent



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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**Rorey Chmielewski** <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jan 10, 2019 at 3:44 PM

To: tony@tonythurmond.com, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, gavin.newsom@gov.ca

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti, and Mr. Thurmond,

We are writing to you on a state level as we need your help here in Los Angeles; our families and our futures need your help NOW. We are teetering dangerously close to a strike, with LAUSD unwilling to present a fair offer to our teachers. It's time for you to intervene.

We are in a dire situation that has progressively gotten worse over the years via a corrupt charter money backed school board, mismanaged money and just blatant misinformation from LAUSD, currently helmed by Superintendent Austin Beutner.

California is currently spending \$11k on our children while spending \$71K on prisoners. This needs to change. As one of the wealthiest states, there is no reason we should be #43 out of 50 in per student spending, while we are the 5th largest economy in the WORLD.

Prior to Proposition 13, California used to be a leader in public education funding, so we are asking you to support statewide initiatives such as the Schools and Communities First Act for the 2020 ballot that would provide \$5 billion dollars for schools each year and close the carried interest loophole.

We need your help putting our children first. We are will fight to the only acceptable ends smaller classes, better staffing of schools and taking privatization out of education.

Sincerely,

The Chmielewski-Sanders Family

[REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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**Re: LAUSD Teachers/Austin Beutner**

1 message

**Norma Luna** <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jan 10, 2019 at 5:06 PM

To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Dear Mr. Garcetti,

As a follow up, as a concerned tax payer in Los Angeles, we are requesting the Los Angeles County Office of Education to review Superintendent Beutner's allocation of public funds to Houlihan Lokey Financial Advisors. It is my understanding that Superintendent Beutner paid \$215,000 to Houlihan Lokey Financial Advisors for three weeks of work, even though the company has no experience in education and admits in its contract with LAUSD that they "are not experts." These nonexperts were paid \$975/hour. I am concerned that paying outside consultants that are not experts in education \$215,000 over a 3 week period at a rate of \$975/hour is a gross mismanagement of funds and constitutes fraud. Additionally, I am concerned that LAUSD illegally procured these services and failed to comply with appropriate procurement regulations and OMB circulars.

Can something be done about this?

Sincerely,

Norma Luna

Sent from Outlook

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**From:** Norma Luna

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 5:12 PM

**To:** mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

**Subject:** LAUSD Teachers/Austin Beutner

Dear Mr. Garcetti,

I am a very concerned parent of two kids in LAUSD schools. I am 100% supporting the teachers.

I want to know how Austin Beutner, who has no education experience is able to make choices for the teachers. As you can see from my attachment, he is not qualified and is ruining our beautiful LAUSD schools - he seem very similar to Donald Trump (A greedy, self serving liar.) As mayor of Los Angeles, is there anything you can do for the teachers? They deserve so much more!

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Norma Luna



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## LAUSD Student Safety

1 message

Jenna Denning

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 7:23 AM

To: tony@tonythurmond.com, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, gavin.newsom@gov.ca

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti and Mr. Thurmond,

As concerned parents of children enrolled in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and as concerned taxpayers in Los Angeles, we are writing to you on a state and city level as we need your immediate help in Los Angeles; our children need your help.

We are teetering dangerously close to a teacher's strike (strike), with LAUSD unwilling to present a fair offer to our teachers.

We are requesting your respective offices to immediately investigate (1) the unacceptable risk of harm to children enrolled in LAUSD schools due to Superintendent Beutner's decision to violate LAUSD Bulletin, BUL-6746.0 (Establishing and Administering School/Office Volunteer Programs) dated August 14, 2017, during the strike expected to start on Monday, January 14, 2019; and (2) Superintendent Beutner's gross mismanagement and fraudulent abuse of public funds.

### Immediate Risk of Harm to Children

LAUSD Bulletin, BUL-6746.0 (Establishing and Administering School/Office Volunteer Programs), dated August 14, 2017, requires applicable volunteers to meet all specified requirements and that appropriate supervision of volunteers is provided at all times to ensure student safety. The bulletin specifically states that volunteers must provide clearance of tuberculosis (TB), obtain health and safety clearances and obtain fingerprinting clearance as required by the FBI and DOJ for volunteers (fingerprinting generally applies to those volunteering over 16 hours a week and persons with significant contact with students).

LAUSD is relying on principals to gather enough volunteers to ensure the safety of all children during the strike. The principals of each school site have been given the authority to waive the requirements outlined in the above referenced policy bulletin. Volunteers will only be checked against the Meghans Law database and not against any existing criminal database. Additionally, LAUSD has failed to provide assurance that principals will be able to recruit enough volunteers (many schools in LAUSD are in financially distressed neighborhoods and those local communities do not have the resources to provide volunteers during the strike) and is unwilling to provide parents a guaranteed ratio of supervising adults to students to ensure student safety. LAUSD's failure to ensure adequate supervision of students during the strike creates an unacceptable risk of harm to children (especially to disadvantaged students). This increased risk of harm through emotional, physical or sexual abuse can create long lasting traumatic effects on children that are unacceptable and morally reprehensible.

## Misappropriating and Abusing School Funds

Superintendent Beutner paid \$215,000 to Houlihan Lokey Financial Advisors for three weeks of work related to the strike, even though the company has no experience in education and admits in its contract with LAUSD that they “are not experts.” These nonexperts were paid \$975/hour. Superintendent Beutner’s decision to pay outside consultants that are not experts in education \$215,000 over a 3 week period at a rate of \$975/hour is a gross mismanagement of funds and constitutes fraud. Additionally, there are concerns that LAUSD illegally procured these services and failed to comply with appropriate procurement regulations and OMB circulars.

Superintendent Beutner sent schools in LAUSD approximately 4 large vinyl banners with green apples that say “Keep Kids in School”. Generally, a banner of this size costs anywhere between \$50 and \$100 dollars or can be printed on the low end for \$25 which results in a cost to the district ranging from \$114,000 to \$458,000 which is an egregious abuse of school funds. Superintendent Beutner is choosing to use public funds to advocate for propaganda to keep children in school during the strike rather than providing such monies to the direct education of children.

There is great concern that Superintendent Beutner is using public funds to promote his own agenda rather than serve the students at large in Los Angeles and illegally procuring services of private contractors. We are in a dire situation that has progressively gotten worse via a school board that has been bought by special interests and mismanaged monies helmed by Superintendent Buetner. Prior to Proposition 13, California used to be a leader in public education funding and is currently ranked #43 out of 50 states in per student spending while California is the 5th largest economy in the world.

We need your collective support to change this model, putting our children first and not school board politics. We are here to fight for our children, and for our collective children. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, especially the safety of children. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Concerned Parents  
#UTLStrong #ShameOnYou #VoteThemOut

Jenna Denning  
Parent of 2 students at LAUSD schools  
Sent from my iPhone



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## URGENT: Emergency Child Safety Issue in LAUSD -- PLEASE HELP!!!

1 message

Iliana Alvarado <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 9:21 AM

To: "tony@tonythurmond.com" <tony@tonythurmond.com>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "gavin.newsom@gov.ca" <gavin.newsom@gov.ca>

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti and Mr. Thurmond,

As concerned parents of children enrolled in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and as concerned taxpayers in Los Angeles, we are writing to you on a state and city level as we need your immediate help in Los Angeles; our children need your help.

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Concerned Parents





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Our public schools need you

1 message

Rebecca LaFond <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 10:04 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net  
Cc: tony@tonythurmond.com, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Dear Mr. Beutner and the LAUSD School Board,

As district 5 parents, we are deeply disappointed in LAUSD's efforts to negotiation with UTLA. We are very informed voters, tax payers, and parents who donate a lot of time and money to our 3 students' public schools, and see every day what our schools and teachers are up against.

Our schools deserve nurses, counselors, and smaller classes. You share messages that you're putting money to this, while on the actual paperwork raise the cap of number of students allowed, and our own superintendent can't correctly identify what the classroom size max is on a radio show. How is that progress? I find it very telling that the one area of the contract that you won't address, that would not require abundant funding, is charter school accountability. The task force for co-location is not a solution. While co-located charters have a deep impact on their school sites and communities, the real issue is the lack of regulation. There needs to be a better process for charter school approval, and then more oversight on their funding, operations, and student acceptance, and ultimate disposal at their convenience. Updating the way charters are managed to better reflect the current state of schools in our district, could potentially bring in hundreds of millions of dollars into our starving schools.

We believe the tone, bias, and inaccurate information that has been directly sent to parents, because you have all of our phone numbers, emails, and addresses because of our students' enrollment, is an abuse of your power. Your board continuously speaks of bankruptcy, parroting the same statement over and over, without ever providing an actual commitment to our students. Yet, our schools all received a number of banners to promote your propaganda. We know how much those banners cost to make, and even if you received a heavy discount, it is a SHAMELESS waste of money. Obviously you can find budgets somewhere to promote your own agenda.

It is absolutely appalling that the majority of this board voted to allow volunteers on campus that have not been TB tested or passed background checks. Being a family member does not make it better. We have family members that are not on the sex offender registry, but would absolutely not pass a background check. Your district has used our students with special needs as an example of children needing care. However, with this new policy, you're exposing the most vulnerable of students to a potentially life threatening disease, and not staffing full time nurses to handle that. If for some reason we did need to send my kids to school during

the strike, this policy made sure that we will do whatever is necessary to keep my children out of school.

We have heard repeatedly that we should take this fight to the state. We can all agree that California needs to do better by our students, but this fight is not only the parents fight. We have elected YOU to represent us. You make more in your positions as our elected officials, than many of our parents and this is the job we elected you to do. Do right by our students and teachers, and then lets fight together at the state level. And yes we did see Ms. Garcia and Supt. Beutner were there on Wednesday (instead of at scheduled negotiations). It is a start, but this is something that should have been done long ago.

Our family stands with our teachers. Our 3 students will not cross the picket line and we will use this moment in time to educate them on how entire labor movements have changed our society for the better. We will also be doing everything in our power to support our teachers and other families during this time.

Please, do better in your offer with UTLA. They are asking for things that will improve the lives of all our students. These changes can have more impact for students, teachers, families, schools, and entire communities.

Sincerely,

Rebecca and Bear LaFond

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Rebecca LaFond



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## URGENT: Emergency Child Safety Issue in LAUSD -- PLEASE HELP!!!

1 message

Aretha Sills <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 10:34 AM

To: ony@tonythurmond.com, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, gavin.newsom@gov.ca

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti and Mr. Thurmond,

As concerned parents of children enrolled in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and as concerned taxpayers in Los Angeles, we are writing to you on a state and city level as we need your immediate help in Los Angeles; our children need your help.

We are teetering dangerously close to a teacher's strike (strike), with LAUSD unwilling to present a fair offer to our teachers.

We are requesting your respective offices to immediately investigate (1) the unacceptable risk of harm to children enrolled in LAUSD schools due to Superintendent Beutner's decision to violate LAUSD Bulletin, BUL-6746.0 (Establishing and Administering School/Office Volunteer Programs) dated August 14, 2017, during the strike expected to start on Monday, January 14, 2019; and (2) Superintendent Beutner's gross mismanagement and fraudulent abuse of public funds.

### Immediate Risk of Harm to Children

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There is great concern that Superintendent Beutner is using public funds to promote his own agenda rather than serve the students at large in Los Angeles and illegally procuring services of private contractors. We are in a dire situation that has progressively gotten worse via a school board that has been bought by special interests and mismanaged monies helmed by Superintendent Beutner. Prior to Proposition 13, California used to be a leader in public education funding and is currently ranked #43 out of 50 states in per student spending while California is the 5th largest economy in the world.

We need your collective support to change this model, putting our children first and not school board politics. We are here to fight for our children, and for our collective children. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, especially the safety of children. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Aretha Sills



Sent from my iPhone



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Re: LAUSD Teacher Strike

1 message

Katrina Jenkins [REDACTED]

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 10:55 AM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

I was compelled to write to you regarding LAUSD. The current issues have been at a point of impasse for a while. Ignoring an issue this large has now caused a snowball effect. My name is Katrina Jenkins. I'm a Special Education Teacher who has experienced first hand the issues at the forefront and I can truly say it is time for change. It's crazy to have more students than desk in your classroom or even space needed to accommodate them. LAUSD has made so many cuts and have pushed responsibility upon educators to fulfill promises made. We have to wear several hats during the day. We have become the nurse, janitors, counselors, and even cafeteria workers to get through the day.

LAUSD has cut their nursing staff so much that even the secretaries in the main offices are asked to oversee medical issues. Handling potential hazardous waste, bodily fluids, and issuing of medication. 80% of schools have No nurse at all. Most campuses are sharing nurses throughout the week. there is an estimated 1 nurse for every 3000 students. Likewise custodial services have been cut in half. you might have have one person struggling to keep a school site clean during the day. Teachers and their students are cleaning their classrooms, often with NO supplies handy to do so. Literacy is pushed throughout the District, often with a lack of books or outdated / tattered books. With the ushering of BIC programs (Breakfast In The Classroom), came the need for distribution of food. Solution, have the children handle it and leave the cleaning to the Teachers. I'm sure parents would dismiss this idea knowing their children are called upon every morning to facilitate services of often heavy carts. That concept came on the backs of Supt. Diasey who has long skipped off the scene. It really is gross to see the after math of BIC without proper cleaning. This is a service that should have stayed in our cafeterias where it was sanitary. Even though I'm not a fan of Charter Schools, the concept could work well with regulations especially when it comes to the credentialing process. They must be made to pay their fair share at co-locations and not just benefit from being tenants. They also deplete school budgets rapidly.

No disrespect to our current Supt., but LAUSD rally would benefit from a four way split. Accountability and proper distribution of funds can only be achieved this way. The district is too large and the red tape is too long... Ms. King's view points are needed. Someone with an inside perspective.

Also implementing a Renters Tax for education would help. Everyone needs to pay their fair share. For years that responsibility has been put on home owners. a small tax of \$2.00-5.00 per child, per month, per household would give public schools the edge they need and get us back on track. Most children in schools are living in rentals, not homes. Retirees and seniors do not need to be footing that bill. I'm a firm believer of being the solution to problems, not just complaining.

I am currently on the mend from my third sustained injury from LAUSD. Support is truly needed. I wish my colleagues all the best. I pray they don't have to strike, but it comes a time to stand up for what is right and just. Thank you for listening to my story and I would love to see you at the negotiations table. This is your city and I respect the view you have for your citizens.

I have even more solutions to share for this wonderful City of Angels. May God be with us all. The world needs more good people like yourself. 😁



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## URGENT: Emergency Child Safety Issue in LAUSD -- PLEASE HELP

1 message

Javier C. Rivera <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 11:03 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: "gavin.newsom@gov.ca" <gavin.newsom@gov.ca>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "tony@tonythurmond.com" <tony@tonythurmond.com>

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti and Mr. Thurmond,

As concerned parents of children enrolled in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and as concerned taxpayers in Los Angeles, we are writing to you on a state and city level as we need your immediate help in Los Angeles; our children need your help.

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We are requesting your respective offices to immediately investigate (1) the unacceptable risk of harm to children enrolled in LAUSD schools due to Superintendent Beutner's decision to violate LAUSD Bulletin, BUL-6746.0 (Establishing and Administering School/Office Volunteer Programs) dated August 14, 2017, during the strike expected to start on Monday, January 14, 2019; and (2) Superintendent Beutner's gross mismanagement and fraudulent abuse of public funds.

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Sincerely,  
Javier C. Rivera, Esq.

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"If music be the food of love, play on." - Shakespeare





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## Emergency Child Safety Issue in LAUSD -- PLEASE HELP!!!

1 message

**Matt Richardson (matricha)** <[REDACTED]> Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 12:42 PM  
To: "tony@tonythurmond.com" <tony@tonythurmond.com>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "gavin.newsom@gov.ca" <gavin.newsom@gov.ca>

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## Misappropriating and Abusing School Funds

Superintendent Beutner paid \$215,000 to Houlihan Lokey Financial Advisors for three weeks of work related to the strike, even though the company has no experience in education and admits in its contract with LAUSD that they "are not experts." These nonexperts were paid \$975/hour. Superintendent Beutner's decision to pay outside consultants that are not experts in education \$215,000 over a 3 week period at a rate of \$975/hour is a gross mismanagement of funds and constitutes fraud. Additionally, there are concerns that LAUSD illegally procured these services and failed to comply with appropriate procurement regulations and OMB circulars.

Superintendent Beutner sent schools in LAUSD approximately 4 large vinyl banners with green apples that say "Keep Kids in School". Generally, a banner of this size costs anywhere between \$50 and \$100 dollars or can be printed on the low end for \$25 which results in a cost to the district ranging from \$114,000 to \$458,000 which is an egregious abuse of school funds. Superintendent Beutner is choosing to use public funds to advocate for propaganda to keep children in school during the strike rather than providing such monies to the direct education of children.

There is great concern that Superintendent Beutner is using public funds to promote his own agenda rather than serve the students at large in Los Angeles and illegally procuring services of private contractors. We are in a dire situation that has progressively gotten worse via a school board that has been bought by special interests and mismanaged monies helmed by Superintendent Beutner. Prior to Proposition 13, California used to be a leader in public education funding and is currently ranked #43 out of 50 states in per student spending while California is the 5th largest economy in the world.

We need your collective support to change this model, putting our children first and not school board politics. We are here to fight for our children, and for our collective children. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, especially the safety of children. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Matt Richardson

Los Angeles resident and concerned parent with a daughter in LAUSD for the 2019-2020 school year



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## URGENT: Emergency Child Safety Issue in LAUSD -- PLEASE HELP!!!

1 message

Heather Fox <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 2:17 PM

To: tony@tonythurmond.com, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, gavin.newsom@gov.ca

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti and Mr. Thurmond,

As concerned parents of children enrolled in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and as concerned taxpayers in Los Angeles, we are writing to you on a state and city level as we need your immediate help in Los Angeles; our children need your help.

We are teetering dangerously close to a teacher's strike (strike), with LAUSD unwilling to present a fair offer to our teachers.

We are requesting your respective offices to immediately investigate (1) the unacceptable risk of harm to children enrolled in LAUSD schools due to Superintendent Beutner's decision to violate LAUSD Bulletin, BUL-6746.0 (Establishing and Administering School/Office Volunteer Programs) dated August 14, 2017, during the strike expected to start on Monday, January 14, 2019; and (2) Superintendent Beutner's gross mismanagement and fraudulent abuse of public funds.

### Immediate Risk of Harm to Children

LAUSD Bulletin, BUL-6746.0 (Establishing and Administering School/Office Volunteer Programs), dated August 14, 2017, requires applicable volunteers to meet all specified requirements and that appropriate supervision of volunteers is provided at all times to ensure student safety. The bulletin specifically states that volunteers must provide clearance of tuberculosis (TB), obtain health and safety clearances and obtain fingerprinting clearance as required by the FBI and DOJ for volunteers (fingerprinting generally applies to those volunteering over 16 hours a week and persons with significant contact with students).

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We need your collective support to change this model, putting our children first and not school board politics. We are here to fight for our children, and for our collective children. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, especially the safety of children. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Concerned Parents



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## URGENT: Emergency Child Safety Issue in LAUSD -- PLEASE HELP!!!

1 message

Kit Clark <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 3:23 PM

Reply-To: Kit Clark <[REDACTED]>

To: "gavin.newsom@gov.ca" <gavin.newsom@gov.ca>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "tony@tonythurmond.com" <tony@tonythurmond.com>

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti and Mr. Thurmond,

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Kit Clark  
Concerned parent

#UTLAsStrong #ShameOnYou #VoteThemOut

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## Re: A Message for Parents and Students

1 message

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**ADA HORWICH** <[REDACTED]>  
To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 8:51 PM

Teachers need more pay and higher status!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2019, at 8:15 PM, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org> wrote:

[View this email in your browser](#)



Hi Ada,

There is nothing more important than the health, safety, and education of our young people.

While it appears that there may be a strike on Monday affecting L.A. Unified schools, I remain steadfast in my belief that there is common ground between L.A. Unified and UTLA and that this common ground will be critical to a final agreement. But if the decision to strike is final, we've worked diligently over the last few weeks to ensure L.A. Unified families have the support they need and deserve.

The City will be offering extended hours, increased staffing, lunch, and programming at select recreation centers; expanded library programming; free transportation on Metro and LADOT for L.A. Unified students; and free admission to a number of museums.

In the meantime, I will keep engaging with both sides in hopes of reaching an agreement.



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Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor



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## Re: A Message for Parents and Students

1 message

Casey Kriley <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 8:51 PM

To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Then why don't we start appropriating funds for public education and make it a priority? It is our future.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2019, at 8:17 PM, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org> wrote:

[View this email in your browser](#)



Hi Casey,

There is nothing more important than the health, safety, and education of our young people.

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Re: A Message for Parents and Students

1 message

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**Palayan, Kirk** <kpalayan@lausd.net>  
To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 8:54 PM

Dear Mayor I also plead that you help to support the teachers, who themselves are hard-working, very committed individuals who are really asking to make our schools better for our students! If you believe in public schools, then you would help lead this impasse to a fair and sound conclusion.

Kirk Palayan  
LAUSD Public School Teacher

---

**From:** Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 8:15 PM  
**To:** Palayan, Kirk  
**Subject:** A Message for Parents and Students

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Hi Kirk,

There is nothing more important than the health, safety, and education of our young people.

While it appears that there may be a strike on Monday affecting L.A. Unified schools, I remain steadfast in my belief that there is common ground between L.A. Unified and UTLA and that this common ground will be critical to a final agreement. But if the decision to strike is final, we've worked diligently over the

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Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor



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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## Re: A Message for Parents and Students

1 message

Cheryl miller <[REDACTED]>  
To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 9:05 PM

Dear Mayor Garcetti, As a parent of an LAUSD middle school student and as a teacher, I do not feel there is middle ground between the school district and teachers/parents/students as long as Austin Beutner is the superintendent. He couldn't even be bothered to show up at the bargaining table with the union today. He promises one school nurse for each elementary school for one year only!! And this is his final offer! If there is an injury or death of a child at an lausd school due to a school nurse not being present at a school (because there is only one school nurse one day a week at Colfax Elementary, for example), who is going to be held accountable for this? Who is going to be liable? It's just a matter of time s tragedy is going to occur.After all, there is a reason there should be school nurses in the first place . Otherwise, why not do away with them altogether? Please talk some sense into the superintendent. My son is an 8th grader with 2,100 children at his school and no school nurse 3 days a week. It's an outrage. Criminal really. Thank you for what you are doing on behalf of he children.

Cheryl Miller

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2019, at 8:15 PM, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org> wrote:

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Hi Cheryl,

There is nothing more important than the health, safety, and education of our young people.

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The City will be offering extended hours, increased staffing, lunch, and programming at select recreation centers; expanded library programming; free

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Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor



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## Re: A Message for Parents and Students

1 message

alice burston <[REDACTED]>  
To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 9:08 PM

Hope you do better with this than the homeless.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2019, at 8:23 PM, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org> wrote:

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Hi alice,

There is nothing more important than the health, safety, and education of our young people.

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Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor



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## Re: A Message for Parents and Students

1 message

Aurora Montenegro <[REDACTED]>  
To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 9:26 PM

I don't have a child any more but I do have many teachers in my family who I support and friends who I donate to their classes so for me this is long over due pay them to teach with more tools

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2019, at 8:14 PM, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org> wrote:

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Hi Auroa,

There is nothing more important than the health, safety, and education of our young people.

While it appears that there may be a strike on Monday affecting L.A. Unified schools, I remain steadfast in my belief that there is common ground between L.A. Unified and UTLA and that this common ground will be critical to a final agreement. But if the decision to strike is final, we've worked diligently over the last few weeks to ensure L.A. Unified families have the support they need and deserve.

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Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor



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## Re: A Message for Parents and Students

1 message

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Rachel Tash <[REDACTED]>  
To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 9:45 PM

Eric,  
You need to step in, most families can't use the programs you're talking, why because we work. We depend on the schools on a daily basis.  
It's up to you as the Mayor to take charge, step up & find a resolution that will work.  
It's a shame & pathetic it's come to this.  
Our school system is a disaster & you are jeopardizing the lives over 600,000 kids but not actively negotiating or making these parties come to an agreement.  
I stand with the teachers.  
Rachel Tash

On Jan 11, 2019, at 8:15 PM, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org> wrote:

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Hi Rachel,

There is nothing more important than the health, safety, and education of our young people.

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Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor



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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Re: A Message for Parents and Students

1 message

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**Joseph Soto** <jsoto@latinoresource.org>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Sat, Jan 12, 2019 at 9:10 AM

Dear Mayor,  
We operate the West Los Angeles FamilySource Center. We will be in support offering academic development, nutrition, and educational opportunities.

Location:  
Vera Davis Center  
610 California Ave.  
Venice, CA. 90291  
310.578.6069.

We will be ready to receive students on Monday at 8 am.

Thank you,

Joseph Soto  
Executive Director  
Latino Resource Organization

On Fri, Jan 11, 2019, 8:18 PM Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org> wrote:

[View this email in your browser](#)



Hi Joseph,

There is nothing more important than the health, safety, and education of our young people.

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Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor



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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Re: A Message for Parents and Students

1 message

Barbara Epstein [REDACTED]

Sat, Jan 12, 2019 at 11:58 AM

To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Cc: steve.lopez@latimes.com

Please forward to the Mayor

We were involved with the creation of the United Teachers of Los Angeles back around 1971, when the teachers had finally had enough of being penny-pinched into poverty and treated like large children at the bargaining table.

Nothing has changed in LAUSD. There has just been the same procession of opportunists, knaves and fools parading through the School Board and Superintendent's Office, trying to act tough with the teachers at the expense of excellence in education.



Barbara

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 11, 2019, at 8:14 PM, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org> wrote:

[View this email in your browser](#)



Hi Barbara and Jack,

There is nothing more important than the health, safety, and education of our young people.

While it appears that there may be a strike on Monday affecting L.A. Unified schools, I remain steadfast in my belief that there is common ground between L.A. Unified and UTLA and that this common ground will be critical to a final agreement. But if the decision to strike is final, we've worked diligently over the last few weeks to ensure L.A. Unified families have the support they need and deserve.

The City will be offering extended hours, increased staffing, lunch, and programming at select recreation centers; expanded library programming; free transportation on Metro and LADOT for L.A. Unified students; and free admission to a number of museums.

In the meantime, I will keep engaging with both sides in hopes of reaching an agreement.

You can learn more about these resources and services by visiting [LAMayor.org/StudentsAndFamilies](http://LAMayor.org/StudentsAndFamilies).

Para más información sobre recursos y servicios en español, visite la página [LAMayor.org/EstudiantesyFamilias](http://LAMayor.org/EstudiantesyFamilias).



Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor



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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Please Help - Urgent

1 message

Suzanne Francis <[REDACTED]>

Sat, Jan 12, 2019 at 12:27 PM

To: tony@tonythurmond.com, gavin.newsom@gov.com, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garrett, and Mr. Thurmond,

I am looking for public servants in a situation where it seems there are fewer and fewer. Does money and self interest really trump education in LA? It seems as though it does. If you're here to serve the public, we need you. I am a parent of two elementary school students and am feeling extremely frustrated and disappointed by the lack of progress between LAUSD and UTLA. It feels more like two business moguls negotiating a big sale, lying and twisting words, trying to get the better of the other. Shouldn't these "public servants" be working together to figure out how to serve our kids? Who at the table is trying to do that? Don't you think it's time you step in and help?

LAUSD has improvements to make and it seems as though the they - and board - are not working in the best interest of the students. Please help make LAUSD a better district, support the teachers and their goal of making a safer, better, more positive environment for our students. It doesn't seem like LAUSD has that goal in mind - and it certainly doesn't seem like the superintendent does. Suggesting elementary classroom sizes up to almost 40 students? (Perhaps he, while the teachers are on strike, should attempt to teach a classroom of 40 students for the day.) Allowing volunteers in during a strike with no background checks? WHO IS FIGHTING FOR OUR KIDS? Clearly not LAUSD. Are you? We need your help.

The situation has gotten worse and worse over the years via a corrupt charter money backed school board, mismanaged money, and just blatant misinformation from LAUSD, currently helmed by Superintendent Austin Beutner. (A man with zero background in education. If this doesn't scream of ulterior motives, what does? He makes \$350,000 a year while we squabble about dollars for teachers, nurses, and librarians? Where are our priorities? This is insane.)

As one of the wealthiest states, why are our schools so desperate for cash? School across the nation have arts, music, and PE in their classrooms every week. Not only are we lacking that, but we can't hire full-time nurses? Something is very wrong here. We pay plenty of taxes. Our kids deserve better. PLEASE support statewide initiatives such as the Schools and Communities First Act for the 2020 ballot that would provide \$5 billion for schools each year and close the carried interest loophole.

We need your support to change this model, putting our kids first and not school board politics. I am here to fight for my kids and for all of our kids... for our future. Again, I ask... are you?

Please support the cause for smaller class size, nurses, and school counselors. I stand with the teachers. I stand with the kids. I believe in public education. I believe it's important and should be valued. I hope you do too.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Francis



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## Re: A Message for Parents and Students

1 message

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Leonard Auslender <[REDACTED]>  
To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Sat, Jan 12, 2019 at 1:46 PM

If you can figure out how to stop the adversarial battles between teachers and administrations, you'll never have another strike.

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 11, 2019, at 8:15 PM, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org> wrote:

[View this email in your browser](#)



Hi Leonard,

There is nothing more important than the health, safety, and education of our young people.

While it appears that there may be a strike on Monday affecting L.A. Unified schools, I remain steadfast in my belief that there is common ground between L.A. Unified and UTLA and that this common ground will be critical to a final agreement. But if the decision to strike is final, we've worked diligently over the last few weeks to ensure L.A. Unified families have the support they need and deserve.

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In the meantime, I will keep engaging with both sides in hopes of reaching an agreement.

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Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor



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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## Re: A Message for Parents and Students

1 message

---

**Mike Stein** <hazzanstein@templealiyah.org>  
To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Sat, Jan 12, 2019 at 7:40 PM

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

Please be aware that our synagogue is also doing a program which children can attend in case of a strike. I will send information as soon as I have it.

שלום וברכה

Peace and blessing,

Hazzan Mike Stein

Temple Aliyah

6025 Valley Circle Blvd

Woodland Hills, CA 91367

cell [REDACTED]

work 818 346 3545 ext 105

---

**From:** Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

**Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 8:18 PM

**To:** Mike Stein

**Subject:** A Message for Parents and Students

[View this email in your browser](#)





Hi Mike,

There is nothing more important than the health, safety, and education of our young people.

While it appears that there may be a strike on Monday affecting L.A. Unified schools, I remain steadfast in my belief that there is common ground between L.A. Unified and UTLA and that this common ground will be critical to a final agreement. But if the decision to strike is final, we've worked diligently over the last few weeks to ensure L.A. Unified families have the support they need and deserve.

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Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor



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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## Please help

1 message

Julia Garro <[REDACTED]>

Sun, Jan 13, 2019 at 3:16 PM

To: "Gavin.newsom@gov.ca" <Gavin.newsom@gov.ca>, "Tony@tonythurmon.com" <Tony@tonythurmon.com>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti and Mr. Thurmond,

As concerned parents of children enrolled in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and as concerned taxpayers in Los Angeles, we are writing to you on a state and city level as we need your immediate help in Los Angeles; our children need your help.

We are teetering dangerously close to a teacher's strike (strike), with LAUSD unwilling to present a fair offer to our teachers.

We are requesting your respective offices to immediately investigate (1) the unacceptable risk of harm to children enrolled in LAUSD schools due to Superintendent Beutner's decision to violate LAUSD Bulletin, BUL-6746.0 (Establishing and Administering School/Office Volunteer Programs) dated August 14, 2017, during the strike expected to start on Monday, January 14, 2019; and (2) Superintendent Beutner's gross mismanagement and fraudulent abuse of public funds.

### Immediate Risk of Harm to Children

LAUSD Bulletin, BUL-6746.0, requires applicable volunteers to meet all specified requirements and that appropriate supervision of volunteers is provided at all times to ensure student safety. The bulletin specifically states that volunteers must provide clearance of tuberculosis (TB), obtain health and safety clearances and obtain fingerprinting clearance as required by the FBI and DOJ for volunteers (fingerprinting generally applies to those volunteering over 16 hours a week and persons with significant contact with students).

LAUSD is relying on principals to gather enough volunteers to ensure the safety of all children during the strike. The principals of each school site have been given the authority to waive the requirements outlined in the above referenced policy bulletin. Volunteers will only be checked against the Meghans Law database and not against any existing criminal database. Additionally, LAUSD has failed to provide assurance that principals will be able to recruit enough volunteers (many schools in LAUSD are in financially distressed neighborhoods and those local communities do not have the resources to provide volunteers during the strike) and is unwilling to provide parents a guaranteed ratio of supervising adults to students to ensure student safety. LAUSD's failure to ensure adequate supervision of students during the strike creates an unacceptable risk of harm to children (especially to disadvantaged students). This

increased risk of harm through emotional, physical or sexual abuse can create long lasting traumatic effects on children that are unacceptable and morally reprehensible.

### Misappropriating and Abusing School Funds

Superintendent Beutner paid \$215,000 to Houlihan Lokey Financial Advisors for three weeks of work related to the strike, even though the company has no experience in education and admits in its contract with LAUSD that they "are not experts." These nonexperts were paid \$975/hour. Superintendent Beutner's decision to pay outside consultants that are not experts in education \$215,000 over a 3 week period at a rate of \$975/hour is a gross mismanagement of funds and constitutes fraud. Additionally, there are concerns that LAUSD illegally procured these services and failed to comply with appropriate procurement regulations and OMB circulars.

Superintendent Beutner sent schools in LAUSD approximately 4 large vinyl banners with green apples that say "Keep Kids in School". Generally, a banner of this size costs anywhere between \$50 and \$100 dollars or can be printed on the low end for \$25 which results in a cost to the district ranging from \$114,000 to \$458,000 which is an egregious abuse of school funds. Superintendent Beutner is choosing to use public funds to advocate for propaganda to keep children in school during the strike rather than providing such monies to the direct education of children.

There is great concern that Superintendent Beutner is using public funds to promote his own agenda rather than serve the students at large in Los Angeles and illegally procuring services of private contractors. We are in a dire situation that has progressively gotten worse via a school board that has been bought by special interests and mismanaged monies helmed by Superintendent Beutner. Prior to Proposition 13, California used to be a leader in public education funding and is currently ranked #43 out of 50 states in per student spending while California is the 5th largest economy in the world.

We need your collective support to change this model, putting our children first and not school board politics. We are here to fight for our children, and for our collective children. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, especially the safety of children. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Concerned Parents

#UTLStrong #ShameOnYou #VoteThemOut

--

Best,



**Julia Garro**

Yoga Instructor | Certified RYT500

P:  
E:





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## I support our teachers

1 message

Jena Schenk - [REDACTED]

Sun, Jan 13, 2019 at 8:07 PM

To: scott.schmerelson@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, monica.garcia@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, austin.beutner@lausd.net

Dear Superintendant Beutner and LAUSD Board Members:

I am a parent of a second grader and kindergartener in LAUSD and I support our teachers. I will be doing everything in my power to support the teachers across the district should they strike and that includes keeping my children home until there is resolution.

Teachers have several goals:

Smaller class sizes

More nursing, counseling and other critical staff (nurses and counselors are only at school 1 day a week.)

6% pay raise

Less mandated testing

Reinvest in special, early and adult and bilingual education

I support each of these goals and implore the district to negotiate in good faith.

Sincerely,  
Jena Schenk  
Ivanhoe Elementary



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## URGENT: Emergency Child Safety Issue in LAUSD -- PLEASE HELP!!!

1 message

Todd Rulapaugh [REDACTED]

Mon, Jan 14, 2019 at 6:13 AM

To: tony@tonythurmond.com, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, gavin.newsom@gov.ca

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti and Mr. Thurmond,

As concerned parents of children enrolled in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and as concerned taxpayers in Los Angeles, we are writing to you on a state and city level as we need your immediate help in Los Angeles; our children need your help.

We are teetering dangerously close to a teacher's strike (strike), with LAUSD unwilling to present a fair offer to our teachers.

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### Immediate Risk of Harm to Children

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LAUSD is relying on principals to gather enough volunteers to ensure the safety of all children during the strike. The principals of each school site have been given the authority to waive the requirements outlined in the above referenced policy bulletin. Volunteers will only be checked against the Meghans Law database and not against any existing criminal database. Additionally, LAUSD has failed to provide assurance that principals will be able to recruit enough volunteers (many schools in LAUSD are in financially distressed neighborhoods and those local communities do not have the resources to provide volunteers during the strike) and is unwilling to provide parents a guaranteed ratio of supervising adults to students to ensure student safety. LAUSD's failure to ensure adequate supervision of students during the strike creates an unacceptable risk of harm to children (especially to disadvantaged students). This increased risk of harm through emotional, physical or sexual abuse can create long lasting traumatic effects on children that are unacceptable and morally reprehensible.

## Misappropriating and Abusing School Funds

Superintendent Beutner paid \$215,000 to Houlihan Lokey Financial Advisors for three weeks of work related to the strike, even though the company has no experience in education and admits in its contract with LAUSD that they “are not experts.” These nonexperts were paid \$975/hour. Superintendent Beutner’s decision to pay outside consultants that are not experts in education \$215,000 over a 3 week period at a rate of \$975/hour is a gross mismanagement of funds and constitutes fraud. Additionally, there are concerns that LAUSD illegally procured these services and failed to comply with appropriate procurement regulations and OMB circulars.

Superintendent Beutner sent schools in LAUSD approximately 4 large vinyl banners with green apples that say “Keep Kids in School”. Generally, a banner of this size costs anywhere between \$50 and \$100 dollars or can be printed on the low end for \$25 which results in a cost to the district ranging from \$114,000 to \$458,000 which is an egregious abuse of school funds. Superintendent Beutner is choosing to use public funds to advocate for propaganda to keep children in school during the strike rather than providing such monies to the direct education of children.

There is great concern that Superintendent Beutner is using public funds to promote his own agenda rather than serve the students at large in Los Angeles and illegally procuring services of private contractors. We are in a dire situation that has progressively gotten worse via a school board that has been bought by special interests and mismanaged monies helmed by Superintendent Beutner. Prior to Proposition 13, California used to be a leader in public education funding and is currently ranked #43 out of 50 states in per student spending while California is the 5th largest economy in the world.

We need your collective support to change this model, putting our children first and not school board politics. We are here to fight for our children, and for our collective children. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, especially the safety of children. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Concerned Parents



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## LAUSD must put students first!

1 message

Stephanie Levitt <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Jan 14, 2019 at 12:43 PM

To: "tony@tonythurmond.com" <tony@tonythurmond.com>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "gavin.newsom@gov.ca" <gavin.newsom@gov.ca>

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti and Mr. Thurmond,

As concerned parents of children enrolled in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and as concerned taxpayers in Los Angeles, we are writing to you on a state and city level as we need your immediate help in Los Angeles; our children need your help.

We are requesting your respective offices to immediately investigate (1) the unacceptable risk of harm to children enrolled in LAUSD schools due to Superintendent Beutner's decision to violate LAUSD Bulletin, BUL-6746.0 (Establishing and Administering School/Office Volunteer Programs) dated August 14, 2017, during the strike that started today, Monday, January 14, 2019; and (2) Superintendent Beutner's gross mismanagement and fraudulent abuse of public funds.

### Immediate Risk of Harm to Children

LAUSD Bulletin, BUL-6746.0, requires applicable volunteers to meet all specified requirements and that appropriate supervision of volunteers is provided at all times to ensure student safety. The bulletin specifically states that volunteers must provide clearance of tuberculosis (TB), obtain health and safety clearances and obtain fingerprinting clearance as required by the FBI and DOJ for volunteers (fingerprinting generally applies to those volunteering over 16 hours a week and persons with significant contact with students).

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There is great concern that Superintendent Beutner is using public funds to promote his own agenda rather than serve the students at large in Los Angeles and illegally procuring services of private contractors. We are in a dire situation that has progressively gotten worse via a school board that has been bought by special interests and mismanaged monies helmed by Superintendent Buetner. Prior to Proposition 13, California used to be a leader in public education funding and is currently ranked #43 out of 50 states in per student spending while California is the 5th largest economy in the world.

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Concerned Parents

#UTLAsStrong #ShameOnYou #VoteThemOut



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## Re: LAUSD Teacher Strike

1 message

**gemma marquez** [REDACTED]

Mon, Jan 14, 2019 at 10:54 PM

To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Cc: "councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org" <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, Jose Huizar <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>, Council Member Koretz <councilmember.koretz@lacity.org>, Councilmember Buscaino <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, Councilmember Wesson <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, City of Los Angeles <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, Curren Price <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, City of Los Angeles <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, City of Los Angeles <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>

Hello Mayor Garcetti,

This is the right moment to fix what is terribly wrong with LAUSD. This is the time to make it right! This is your moment to show your leadership skills and help bring an end to LAUSD Teacher Strike!

Rain or Shine we are with Teachers, Students, and Parents!

"Do what is right, not what is easy!"

Best,

Gemma Marquez

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Teacher Strike

1 message

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**Harold Chuhlantseff** <Hchuhlantseff@worxsitehr.com>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 6:38 AM

Good Morning Mayor Eric Garcetti,

I have been watching and listening to the news about the Teachers Strike that is currently going on. I have a Wellness Program that is NO COST to the City of Los Angeles. Through a 125 Cafeteria Program the City of Los Angeles can save approximately \$35.00 per month per employee. We also have the ability to SUBSIDIZE your Workers' Compensation Payments up to 30% to 40%.

What does that mean in terms of a CASH SAVINGS to the City of Los Angeles.

Based on 150,000 Employees

Savings with Wellness

$\$35.00 \times 150,000 = \$5,250,000$  per month

Estimated Payments towards Self Insured Workers' Comp

Took 150,000 X \$45,000 annual salary = \$6,750,000,000 X Workers' Comp Rate of 10% = \$675,000,000 in Estimated Annual Payments into your Self Funded Program.

With our SUBSIDIZED contribution towards your Workers' Comp of \$202,500,000 per year.

The total estimated ANNUAL SAVINGS to the City of Los Angeles would be around \$  
265,500,000.00.

There is a lot of money to help the City of Los Angeles narrow the gap with the Teachers. Also with our WELLNESS Program we can develop a very comprehensive Program just for the City of Los Angeles.

I would really like the opportunity to meet with the committee in charge of making decisions for the City of Los Angeles. I believe we have a Program that all parties can benefit from.

Feel free to contact me at 559-696-5117 or by email at Hchuhlantseff@worxsitehr.com

Thank you for your time, I look forward to working with the City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Harold Chuhlantseff



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## Re: Please Help - Urgent

1 message

Suzanne Francis <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 11:18 AM

To: tony@tonythurmond.com, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, gavin.newsom@gov.ca

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garrett, and Mr. Thurmond,

It is day 2 of the strike. Yesterday and this morning my children and I walked with our cherished teachers and then came home to "homeschool." No, we are not sitting inside our school playing board games and we are not on vacation. Education is important - but our teachers are the main ingredient. I hear you all believe a negotiation is possible... can you help facilitate?

From my standpoint, Beutner has proven himself to be more and more unreasonable and less and less capable of working for the benefit of our kids and for the benefit of education.

-Who told Telemundo to report to their viewers that students would be penalized if they didn't show up to school during a strike???

-Beutner reportedly tried to remove media from the Downtown area before all the teachers showed up to rally.

-Beutner tried to report that only 3,500 people showed up Downtown... the number is more like 50,000

-Monica Garcia was apparently paid to vote Beutner in - somewhere to the tune of \$500,000 toward her next campaign

Beutner appears to be taking notes from our current president's playbook. Lies, greed, and trying to control information.

Again, I ask - where are the public servants? I fear that this union busting and attempt to disassemble public education could mean the end of something I believe is very important - a fair and free education for everyone. Where are we headed when we allow this corruption to go on inside our public service system?

Please help.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Francis

On Sat, Jan 12, 2019 at 12:27 PM Suzanne Francis <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garrett, and Mr. Thurmond,

I am looking for public servants in a situation where it seems there are fewer and fewer. Does money and self interest really trump education in LA? It seems as though it does. If you're here to serve the public, we need you. I am a parent of two elementary school

students and am feeling extremely frustrated and disappointed by the lack of progress between LAUSD and UTLA. It feels more like two business moguls negotiating a big sale, lying and twisting words, trying to get the better of the other. Shouldn't these "public servants" be working together to figure out how to serve our kids? Who at the table is trying to do that? Don't you think it's time you step in and help?

LAUSD has improvements to make and it seems as though the they - and board - are not working in the best interest of the students. Please help make LAUSD a better district, support the teachers and their goal of making a safer, better, more positive environment for our students. It doesn't seem like LAUSD has that goal in mind - and it certainly doesn't seem like the superintendent does. Suggesting elementary classroom sizes up to almost 40 students? (Perhaps he, while the teachers are on strike, should attempt to teach a classroom of 40 students for the day.) Allowing volunteers in during a strike with no background checks? WHO IS FIGHTING FOR OUR KIDS? Clearly not LAUSD. Are you? We need your help.

The situation has gotten worse and worse over the years via a corrupt charter money backed school board, mismanaged money, and just blatant misinformation from LAUSD, currently helmed by Superintendent Austin Beutner. (A man with zero background in education. If this doesn't scream of ulterior motives, what does? He makes \$350,000 a year while we squabble about dollars for teachers, nurses, and librarians? Where are our priorities? This is insane.)

As one of the wealthiest states, why are our schools so desperate for cash? School across the nation have arts, music, and PE in their classrooms every week. Not only are we lacking that, but we can't hire full-time nurses? Something is very wrong here. We pay plenty of taxes. Our kids deserve better. PLEASE support statewide initiatives such as the Schools and Communities First Act for the 2020 ballot that would provide \$5 billion for schools each year and close the carried interest loophole.

We need your support to change this model, putting our kids first and not school board politics. I am here to fight for my kids and for all of our kids... for our future. Again, I ask... are you?

Please support the cause for smaller class size, nurses, and school counselors. I stand with the teachers. I stand with the kids. I believe in public education. I believe it's important and should be valued. I hope you do too.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Francis



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Stop the Strike

1 message

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**Jacqueline Rivera** <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 12:13 PM

Please publicly support the LAUSD Teachers' Strike. Let's show the country that California supports public education and teachers. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Rivera



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Teacher strike

1 message

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**Joy Orwell** [REDACTED]

Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 4:36 PM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Mr Garcetti:

I find it both sad & ironic that the teachers of LA County are on strike & asking for lesser teacher:student ratio for each class.

Yet... you & your political cohorts in the state of California support illegal immigration. If you allow thousands of illegal immigrants to cross into your state..... a large percentage are children.... which means that the teacher:student ration is NOT going to decrease anytime soon.

Good teachers are few & far between. The worse conditions we continue to allow our teachers to endure..... the less educators you will have to choose from & hire in the future.

Illegal immigration is a multifaceted problem for America. The borders need to be closed now or America will continue to decline as a society.

Sent from my iPhone





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## Re: A Message for Parents and Students

1 message

**Mendizabal, Aurora** <acm2022@lausd.net>  
To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 5:30 PM

Mayor,

*Please put your money where your rhetoric is and push LAUSD and UTLA to settle. Playing the blame game on the media is disgraceful. They need to get teachers off the streets and back in their classrooms. I need to be teaching not chanting.*

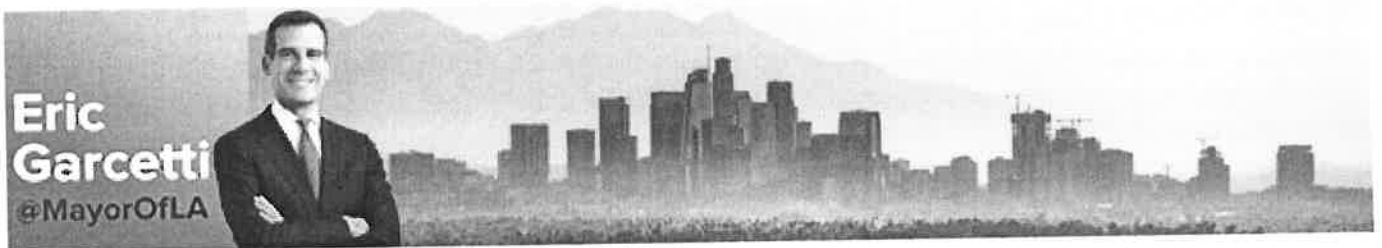
*Respectfully,*

*Aurora Mendizabal*

---

**From:** Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2019 8:17:46 PM  
**To:** Mendizabal, Aurora  
**Subject:** A Message for Parents and Students

[View this email in your browser](#)



Hi Aurora,

There is nothing more important than the health, safety, and education of our young people.

While it appears that there may be a strike on Monday affecting L.A. Unified schools, I remain steadfast in my belief that there is common ground between L.A. Unified and UTLA and that this common ground will be critical to a final

agreement. But if the decision to strike is final, we've worked diligently over the last few weeks to ensure L.A. Unified families have the support they need and deserve.

The City will be offering extended hours, increased staffing, lunch, and programming at select recreation centers; expanded library programming; free transportation on Metro and LADOT for L.A. Unified students; and free admission to a number of museums.

In the meantime, I will keep engaging with both sides in hopes of reaching an agreement.

You can learn more about these resources and services by visiting [LAMayor.org/StudentsAndFamilies](http://LAMayor.org/StudentsAndFamilies).

Para más información sobre recursos y servicios en español, visite la página [LAMayor.org/EstudiantesyFamilias](http://LAMayor.org/EstudiantesyFamilias).



Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor



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You are receiving this email because you signed up for our newsletter.

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## Teachers on strike

1 message

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Nancy Chakravarty <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 7:52 PM

Dear Mayor

I appreciate your behind the scenes work to bring LAUSD & UTLA together. Your eloquent description of the teachers' "righteous cause" is lovely but I'd really rather you speak out more forcefully on their behalf.

Seriously, how would you feel working or studying under the same conditions? The schools are appalling; it's shameful that we've allowed them to languish for decades, to the extent that we are near the bottom in per student spending. I realize the funding comes from the state but it's way past time to stand up for our schools, our teachers & our students.

Tomorrow I hope to hear your voice loud & clear in support of the teachers.

Sincerely,

Nancy Chakravarty  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## PLEASE WORK TOGETHER!

1 message

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**Carmen Martinez** <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 10:33 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, acaputopearl@utla.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org,  
Tony@tonythurmond.com



**concerned stakeholder.pdf**

22K

January 15, 2019

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti, State Superintendent Thurmond, Superintendent Beutner and UTLA President Alex Caputo Pearl,

Let me take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Carmen Martinez. I'm a wife, mother, an active member of my community, a taxpayer, a LAUSD educator, and a woman with common sense.

I have been **showing up** for the past two days. . . just like I've been **showing up** for the past twenty-seven years to improve the quality of public education! It's incredible to imagine that while I march with my fellow teachers for basic services each student should have access to, the individuals who profess to serve the teaching community are unable to reach a win-win agreement with one another. These parties should be as committed to public education as the teachers, students and parents are demonstrating on the picket lines. This means get in the SAME ROOM and find a solution. PLEASE anyone intervene now! Do not wait for one of the parties to "invite" you! My students, families, colleagues and myself CANNOT afford, academically nor financially, to be out of the classroom one more day.

Each of you should ask yourself. . . Has this become a battle of personalities? Am I morally committed in doing the right thing for the teachers and students?

As an educator for twenty-seven years, I have become used to making do with minimal supplies, increased testing requirements, new programs with little or no training, working in deteriorated buildings. Teachers have a wonderful gift in making these spaces inspirational and uplifting; teaching life skills and standards as well as nurturing and counseling students and their families.

We are magical. . . we make lemonade out of lemons every single day!

Now it's your turn, as servants and representatives of the teaching community, you've had almost two years to create and negotiate an acceptable contract. . . but have failed to produce a solution.

It is time for all the parties to roll up their sleeves, get honest with one another and provide a contract the teachers and district can accept at this time and get back to our primary focus. . . . educating our children.

Respectfully,

Carmen Martinez



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## Request from UCLA Lab School Parent and LAUSD Teacher

1 message

Jill Iger <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 12:22 AM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org

Hello Mayor Garcetti,

My name is Jill Iger and I'm a 2nd grade teacher in LAUSD. I also am a Lab School parent. You do not know me personally, although I'm sure we've held a door for each other or have said hello in passing on the EC yard at some point. I am writing to you, first of all, to thank you for offering to help LAUSD and UTLA come to a resolution. Our schools need serious help and if we don't take care of them, I truly fear for our future.

I've been teaching most of my career in inner-city schools but have spent the past 8 years at a high performing school with great parent support. They provide music, art, PE, a computer lab teacher and much more that LAUSD does not provide. It is only because of this extra parent fundraising that I believe we have the great school rating. Of course, there are amazing teachers, but there are amazing teachers everywhere and amazing teachers can only do so much without proper resources. **It should not be the responsibility of the parents or teachers to use their own money to fill in the gaps that LAUSD should provide.** I'm sure you know this otherwise you would be sending your kids to a school in LAUSD. I know this, which is why I thank my lucky stars that my daughter got into the Lab School and will have the wonderful learning opportunities there that all LA kids deserve. If we want a better future, we need to take care of our community-ALL of our community! This is also the problem in our country at present. We have forgotten how to take care of our own. I'm also worried for our future as a country because of this. We are the 5th largest economy in the WORLD so why are we the 45th in the nation in per pupil spending? It doesn't make sense and there has to be a way to turn this around. I'm hoping you can change this.

I am asking that you consider helping come up with a solution to the current state of public schools in Los Angeles. You and I both know what happens when kids are given the resources they need, like at the Lab School. Norma Silva was an amazing leader at the Lab School and was responsible for many changes there. I was devastated to see her leave the Lab School but now I'm thinking it could be to help create change in our district. I know you think the world of her too because I saw the inspiring video message you made for her at her goodbye party. She also has a history with LAUSD and is currently working as a principal at Para Los Ninos. This is going to sound crazy but can you please approach her as a liaison to the district or something to try to make some suggestions on changing our district for the better? There is no reason why LAUSD couldn't become a leader in public education! It is possible. I believe it is! As Paramahansa Yogananda said, "The season of failure is the best time for sowing seeds of success."

We teachers are hopeful, resourceful and want to learn. We are open to change. We want the best for our students, which is why we are sacrificing not getting paid when the majority of us live paycheck to paycheck. We spent our winter break securing loans to be able to pay our

rent and bills if we were to go on strike. We are worried that this strike will be like the government shutdown and we will be forced to go weeks like this. Many of us are a paycheck away from being on the streets. Does Austin Beutner care about this? Why did Beutner not show up to the last 2 negotiations before the strike? That was seen by teachers as a completely disrespectful (and Trumpian) move. That makes us fear that the rumors of him wanting to break up our district and privatize it are true. I hope he has good intentions. I like to believe he does.

I appreciate all you are doing to help us and just thought that this would be a good idea to tap into Norma's wealth of knowledge and spread that throughout our district. I'm happy to help you in any way I can, if you ever need it. I've been teaching 19 years in California (14 in LAUSD) in all types of schools, in both bilingual classes and English only.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I really appreciate it.

With respect,  
Jill Iger







Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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**mihir kothari** <[REDACTED]>  
To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 6:13 AM

Hello Sir,  
I will not be sending my kids to school until we have a credentialed teacher. May I request to please look into the matter.

Get Outlook for iOS



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## LAUSD—Teacher Strike

1 message

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Linda Dowell [REDACTED]  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 6:17 AM

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

Today starts LAUSD Teacher Strike day three. I am a Valley-North 3rd grade teacher, and I want to be back in the classroom with my 22 students NOW! I am a public school teacher! On strike is not where any of us want to be!

Press conferences don't get these issue solved, yet that seems to be the daily norm. Garcia and Beutner, displaying one angry parent after another is disgusting. My parents and students love me for the work that I do. They tell me, they show me, and I love them too. No more orchestrated press conferences that use people!

I am expecting to see face to face meetings happening between LAUSD and UTLA this week. That is not on the table yet. You could make that happen! Help everyone find the point that gets us all back to work...

Thank you Mayor Garcetti!

Linda Dowell  
LAUSD Educator

Sent from my iPhone



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## My kids safety and education

1 message

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 6:29 AM

[REDACTED]  
To: superintendent@lausd.net, monicagarcia@lausd.net, nickmelvoin@lausd.net,  
mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, tony@tonythurmond.com

I am tired of this my kids are sadden by all this dispute between adults and it worries me of my children safety at school with no authorized supervision in classrooms no homework being provided my daughter has learning issues, so this is keeping her from learning the correct criteria for her needs. I really wish you all would take a look at this situation and plz reconsider helping out these teachers that are loved by there students. when we vote the first thing that comes to mind and has us really wanting to vote for someone is when they promise more money to schools, this case none of it has been meet, my daughter has been sick quit a fews times with her stomache I would hate to say could this be due to lack of money in the cafeteria. I hope not. but I really really want to get my daughter back at her learning studies. my daughter wants to go back to school soooooooo much she misses her teachers and her studies. how could you guys allow this to continue. my kids is being kept form learninh your youth your countrys future is being put on hold :(



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## In support of teachers

1 message

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**Stephanie Laff** <[REDACTED]>  
To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:06 AM

Mayor Garcetti,

I am the working parent of a LAUSD student. I whole heartedly support the teachers and I am not alone. All children have a right to a quality education whether or not their parents can advocate for them. This is why district schools must be funded. Please encourage the superintendent to lower class sizes, provide more nurses and librarians, and pay teachers a living wage.

Thank you,  
Stephanie Miller



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Teacher strike

1 message

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  >  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:19 AM

Hello, Mayor Garcetti,

I'm an LAUSD parent and I support our teachers! What is going on is just completely ridiculous. These people are with our children all day and they deserve everything. They are the ones teaching our children. I will stand with them until the end. And until my sons teacher returns to school he will not be attending school. At this point I fear for his safety and I know there's no instruction going on. I urge you to please listen to the teachers. They deserve it!



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## END LAUSD STRIKE!

1 message

Rachel Koda

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:59 AM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Mr. Garcetti,

I am a substitute teacher for LAUSD and all 3 of my children go to LAUSD public schools! Please urge Austin Beutner and UTLA to negotiate. Please tell them NOT to leave that room until there is a fair contract! My THREE children need their teachers back. My children are not crossing the picket lines and their education is suffering. I'm not crossing the picket lines and I'm a single mother, so our financial security is even more at stake than usual. I live paycheck to paycheck as a sub, and everything I do in my life is for the betterment of my children. I am on strike because I know LAUSD can do better! My children deserve a full-time nurse at school! They deserve a librarian that's there more than every other week. And more than anything else they deserve more one on one attention that teachers could give if they had less students in their classes. Class sizes are UNACCEPTABLE right now. Being a substitute, I have been to many elementary schools in our district and have seen first hand the difference between a class of 42 4th graders and a class of 24 fourth graders. The children in the bigger class, suffer. Period. The smart but quiet ones fall through the cracks, the ones with behavior problems stand out and get all the attention because teachers try to keep a conducive learning environment, the average students who could possibly excel, remain average because teachers can't give anyone one on one attention! It's outrageous. PLEASE encourage Beutner to meet with UTLA and treat the teachers of this city with the respect they more than deserve!

Thank you!

Rachel Koda

LAUSD substitute teacher AND parent of 3 LA Unified students!

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## Supporting our Teachers

1 message

**Marta Caloca** [REDACTED]

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 9:39 AM

To: tony@tonythurmond.com, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, gavin.newsom@gov.ca

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti, and Mr Thurmond,

We are writing to you on a state level as we need your help here in Los Angeles our children need help. We are teetering dangerously close to a strike with LAUSD unwilling to present a fair offer to our teachers. It's time for you to intervene.

We are in a dire situation that has progressively gotten worse over the years via a corrupt charter money backed school board, mismanaged money and just blatant misinformation from LAUSD currently helmed by Superintendent Austin Beutner California is currently spending \$11k on our children while spending \$71k on prisoners. This needs to change. As one of the wealthiest states, there is no reason we should be #43 out of 50 in per student spending, while we are the 5th largest economy I the WORLD.

Prior to Proposition 13, California used to be a leader in public education funding, so we are askin you to support statewide initiatives such as the Schools and Communities First Act for the 2020 ballot that would provide \$5 billion dollars for schools each year and close the carrier interest loophole.

We need your support to change this model, putting our kids first and not school board politics. I am here to fight for my kids, and for all of our kids.

Please support our cause for smaller class size,nurses and school counselors. I stand with teachers!!!

Thanks

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Fwd: Fw: Supporting our Teachers

1 message

Monica Mendoza

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 9:42 AM

To: "gavin.neespm@gov.ca" <gavin.neespm@gov.ca>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "tony@tonythurmond.com" <tony@tonythurmond.com>

Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti, and Mr Thurmond,

We are writing to you on a state level as we need your help here in Los Angeles our children need help. We are teetering dangerously close to a strike with LAUSD unwilling to present a fair offer to our teachers. It's time for you to intervene.

We are in a dire situation that has progressively gotten worse over the years via a corrupt charter money backed school board, mismanaged money and just blatant misinformation from LAUSD currently helmed by Superintendent Austin Beutner California is currently spending \$11k on our children while spending \$71k on prisoners. This needs to change. As one of the wealthiest states, there is no reason we should be #43 out of 50 in per student spending, while we are the 5th largest economy I the WORLD.

Prior to Proposition 13, California used to be a leader in public education funding, so we are askin you to support statewide initiatives such as the Schools and Communities First Act for the 2020 ballot that would provide \$5 billion dollars for schools each year and close the carrier interest loophole.

We need your support to change this model, putting our kids first and not school board politics. I am here to fight for my kids, and for all of our kids.

Please support our cause for smaller class size,nurses and school counselors. I stand with teachers!!!

Thanks

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## RE: In Dallas Texas - Standing with LA Teachers & Students

1 message

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**Pollard-Terry, Gayle** <gayle.pollard-terry@lausd.net> Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 10:19 AM  
To: Lady DebDenise <[REDACTED]>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>  
Cc: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "gavin@gavinnewsom.com" <gavin@gavinnewsom.com>, "Betsy.DeVos@ed.gov" <Betsy.DeVos@ed.gov>

Thank you for your email.

Los Angeles Unified schools are open, students are receiving instruction and meals are being served. This will continue throughout the UTLA strike.

Los Angeles Unified did not want a strike and offered UTLA leaders a \$565 million package to significantly reduce class sizes, and nearly 1,200 educators in schools and provide all UTLA members with 6% salary raises.

Los Angeles Unified remains committed to contract negotiations and will continue to work around the clock to find solutions to end the strike.

We have also established a Family Hotline at (213) 443-1300 to address any additional questions you may have. Updates about labor negotiations are also available at LAUSD.net.

Best regards,

Gayle Pollard-Terry

LAUSD Deputy Chief Communications Officer

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

O: 213.241.6766

[www.facebook.com/LosAngelesSchools](http://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesSchools)

LAUSD (@LASchools) | Twitter

**From:** Lady DebDenise [mailto: [REDACTED]]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 9:32 AM

**To:** Vladovic, Richard <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>; Schmerelson, Scott M. <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>; Mckenna, George <george.mckenna@lausd.net>; Gonez, Kelly <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>; Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET>; García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net>; Beutner, Austin <austin.beutner@lausd.net>

**Cc:** mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; gavin@gavinnewsom.com; Betsy.DeVos@ed.gov

**Subject:** In Dallas Texas - Standing with LA Teachers & Students

I am writing to each of you regarding the Teachers Strike in LA. Although I am all the way in Dallas Texas, I am disheartened at what is happening in our country. It is grossly unacceptable that the 2nd largest school district in our nation ranks nearly at the bottom of American Public Schools. As Board Members, if you are not making a difference in the lives of these children why are there? What legacy will you leave? The students you ignore today will one day be our First Responders, Bankers, Health Care Providers and other professional services that we cannot take for granted. The lack of a quality education will result in a lack of quality services in our country.

**SHAME ON YOU!** If you took a raise or pay increase; If you have office supplies and tools in your office; if you can freely obtain medical care because you have substantial health care, if you are the problem and not the solution **SHAME ON YOU!!!** Did you actually take a 174% pay increase or **ANY** increase while the teachers of LAUSD have not received a raise in **THREE YEARS?** You are jeopardizing the children. If these teachers leave LAUSD, you are losing your most valuable asset because most of those teachers are there because it is their life's passion to be **DIFFERENCE MAKERS** in the classroom.

I am proudly an empty nester and although I had a choice for my children's education, I am a witness that **Charter Schools and Privatization DO NOT WORK!** We need to save our communities and it starts with public education. Please get these 50,000 teachers and students out of the rain. We are all getting sick from this strike.

**Use the \$1.8 billion in LAUSD reserves NOW to fund our schools**

- **Lower class size across grade levels and across the district**
- **Fund more nurses, counselors, librarians, and other critical staff in every school**
- **Stop toxic over-testing of our students**
- **Control privatization and invest in community schools**
- **Reinvest in special education, early education, adult and bilingual education**
- **Quit stalling and reach an agreement with teachers, parents, and our communities**

Sincerely,

Deborah Denise in Dallas



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## RE: FOR THE LOVE OF OUR CHILDREN

1 message

**Anita Padilla** <Anita@escrowofthewest.com>

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 10:46 AM

To: "superintendent@lausd.net" <superintendent@lausd.net>, "monica.garcia@lausd.net" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "nick.melvoin@lausd.net" <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "tony@tonythurmond.com" <tony@tonythurmond.com>

Please read below, thank you all!



**Anita Padilla**

Executive Assistant to Galit Ofengart

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9440 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 310, Beverly Hills, CA. 90210

P. (310) 402-5555 ext. 2011 | E-Fax. (310) 402-5556

[www.escrowofthewest.com](http://www.escrowofthewest.com)



[Click here for Disclosure.](#)

**From:** Anita Padilla

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 10:17 AM

**To:** 'superintendent@lausd.net' <superintendent@lausd.net>; 'monica.garcia@lausd.net' <monica.garcia@lausd.net>; 'nick.melvoin@lausd.net' <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>; 'mayor.garcetti@lacity.org' <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>; 'tony@tonythurmond.com' <tony@tonythurmond.com>

**Subject:** FOR THE LOVE OF OUR CHILDREN

**Importance:** High

Dear Leaders,

I am disgusted and ashamed of your lack of action in regard to the LAUSD teacher strike. In order to call yourself a leader you must be willing to make sacrifices for the good of the masses. LAUSD needs more teachers, smaller classes, updated/modern facilities, full time nurses, counselors, PE coaches, librarians, latest technology, and most importantly they need YOU TO STEP AND MAKE IT HAPPEN. Our children deserve sports teams, field trips and retreats but we are simply asking for the bare minimum. My family, our friend's families and everyone I know fully support our LAUSD teachers on strike and it's time they have your support too.

Please arrange a meeting with the UTLA union teachers and end this strike by fulfilling the needs and demands of the teachers. Our country and so many others are depending on you to make the right decision and quickly.

I am already ashamed of our government, please do not let our community down by being as selfish and unwilling to work in unity as those in leadership of our country. Please put yourself in our position and try to see their perspective. We need you to step up and show this country and the world that our leaders do have our best interest and are willing to make sacrifices for the good of their people.

Best regards,

Anita Padilla



## **Anita Padilla**

Executive Assistant to Galit Ofengart

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9440 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 310, Beverly Hills, CA. 90210

**P.** (310) 402-5555 ext. 2011 | **E-Fax.** (310) 402-5556

[www.escrowofthewest.com](http://www.escrowofthewest.com)



[Click here for Disclosure.](#)



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Re: 1/14/19 LAUSD UTLA update

1 message

Alysa <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 11:16 AM

To: "Pollard-Terry, Gayle" <gayle.pollard-terry@lausd.net>, austin.beutner@lausd.net, Board Member Nick Melvoin <BD4Info@lausd.net>, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, Tony@tonythurmond.com, gavin.newsom@gov.ca, MONICA.GARCIA@lausd.net, SCOTT.SCHMERELSON@lausd.net, RICHARD.VLADOVIC@lausd.net, KELLY.GONEZ@lausd.net, GEORGE.MCKENNA@lausd.net

Hello Gayle and LAUSD Board, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Governor, Mr. Thurmond, and Mr. Beutner,

I am not appreciating or believing your continued claims that you are doing all that you can. Indeed, you and only you can empower our teachers NOW and benefit all of us straight away. Please don't hesitate any longer!

Your voters and parents in LA stand with the UTLA and demand that the district meet UTLA's very reasonable requests ASAP. There is no alternative, nothing really to negotiate "around the clock," so please stop wasting time on PR emails to us to save face, and please realize that the voters and families want exactly what the UTLA has outlined for you. Please do get to work on accepting that and let's move forward with more resources for education - PUBLIC education, not charter schools - in LA & CA.

Regards,  
Alysa

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 10:29 AM Pollard-Terry, Gayle <gayle.pollard-terry@lausd.net> wrote:

Thank you for your email.

Los Angeles Unified schools are open, students are receiving instruction and meals are being served. This will continue throughout the UTLA strike.

Los Angeles Unified did not want a strike and offered UTLA leaders a \$565 million package to significantly reduce class sizes, and nearly 1,200 educators in schools and provide all UTLA members with 6% salary raises.

Los Angeles Unified remains committed to contract negotiations and will continue to work around the clock to find solutions to end the strike.

We have also established a Family Hotline at (213) 443-1300 to address any additional questions you may have. Updates about labor negotiations are also available at LAUSD.net.

Best regards,

Gayle Pollard-Terry

LAUSD Deputy Chief Communications Officer

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

O: 213.241.6766

[www.facebook.com/LosAngelesSchools](https://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesSchools)

LAUSD (@LASchools) | Twitter

**From:** Alysa [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 9:11 AM  
**To:** Board Member Nick Melvoin <BD4Info@lausd.net>  
**Cc:** Beutner, Austin <austin.beutner@lausd.net>  
**Subject:** Re: 1/14/19 LAUSD UTLA update

Hello,

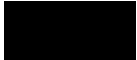
I completely disagree. It is the district's responsibility to communicate with the state of CA to get necessary funding and allocate it properly for our students and teachers. That should not be the teachers' responsibility. They should be teaching once they have the resources to do



it properly from the district. Please stop trying to convince us otherwise. We've elected you and your colleagues to work for us, not for yourselves. Please DO the right thing and make a better offer to UTLA which makes it worthwhile for UTLA to come back to the negotiations.

Until then, I will be picketing with our teachers and working to vote you out of office as soon as possible.

Alysa Nahmias



On Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 8:40 AM Board Member Nick Melvoin <BD4Info@lausd.net> wrote:

Hi there,

Yesterday was a tough day in Los Angeles. No matter what you believe, or what side of this contract dispute you fall on, one thing is clear: parents, teachers, and community members in LA Unified are standing up for the future of public education in our city. I am always proud to see people, especially students, get engaged and take part in displays of activism.

I would love to see this type of activism directed at Sacramento, where 90% of our district's funding comes from. I hope that UTLA will return to the negotiating table soon; it's been very unfortunate that there have been no negotiations since Friday due to their unwillingness to talk. We want to reach an agreement, end the strike, and focus our efforts collectively on a revenue strategy that puts more money and resources back into our classrooms where they belong.

The state of California is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world, but ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in national per-pupil spending. We are ready to put more money toward class size reductions and adding more nurses, counselors, and librarians in our schools. But we can't spend money we don't have. In addition to using every dollar of our reserve to give raises, reduce class sizes, put more nurses, librarians, and counselors in school, and fund

deficits, we have updated our offer based on the Governor's new budget proposal. We are also working with LA County to see if they can help fund additional nurses for our schools.

We have been in communication with both the Mayor and new Governor's team to help get UTLA back to the table to continue negotiations. We are ready and willing to continue talks anytime and anywhere, so we can resolve this and get our kids back in the classroom and learning from our valuable teachers.

Best,

Nick

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**Nick Melvoin**

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LA Unified Board of Education

Vice President | District 4

[www.boardmembermelvoin.com](http://www.boardmembermelvoin.com)



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## LAUSD Teachers' Strike

1 message

I Her [REDACTED]  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 12:38 PM

As a voter for over 45 years, I object to your walk-the-middle-ground stand on the strike. (And, yes, I voted for you myself, but, I, and my family and everyone I can convince, will not be deluded again if you keep standing up for the wrong interests.)

Your misplaced support is expressing similar sentiment to that of the current White House occupant saying there were good points on "both sides" in the Charlottesville protest and subsequent murder!!!!

Where is your sense of decency, or are you just looking out for number one? Maybe you want the future financial backing of these "sharks" at the expense of us average citizens, whose children were educated very well by the non-charter, non-profitmaking, public or magnet schools back in the day. FYI, many, many students from these public schools went on to ivy league schools or high-ranking state universities!!! Well over 15 years ago, before the unchecked proliferation of charter schools, my own daughter was accepted to UCLA, having graduated from a public LAUSD high school offering a very challenging academic program and a high-quality education every bit as competitive as these exclusive, elitist private schools, but at a very good "bang for your buck". Do you honestly think that privatization of public schools is going to give more education value for every tax dollar paid? If you do, than you don't mind Wall Street CEO's walking off with profits while the banks and corporations were in danger of going bankrupt and had to be bailed out by taxpayers, or do you have selective amnesia????? Did you forget that these predatory corporations and their CEO's caused the whole financial crisis?????? So don't go giving support to the Superintendent who is just another Wall Street opportunist, and his pro-charter, behind-the-scene gang of thieves, trying to manipulate the system to steal our HARD-EARNED taxpayers money once again.

I don't want my taxpayer money to be paid first into the pockets of non-educators before the educators get their share of funding. Your position as our mayor should not be to defend corporate interest!

Please support our public school teachers and UTLA, because the wealthy investment banker and his power-hungry, greedy-for-taxpayer-money, cronies don't need your support for his/their self-serving interests. To give the Superintendent any due consideration to his LIES and mischaracterization about what the Union and teachers are trying to ask for is just plain disingenuous and wrong. It goes against the public and citizens' interests in all instances!!!

Furthermore, maybe you should look into the corruption of the elections of the school board members, because their selection of our current Superintendent smacks of bribes paid to give the job to someone who has no understanding of education, educators, and the mission of educating, without the spectre of undeserved profit.

Please help the situation instead of giving impetus to the Superintendent whose only interest should be, but isn't, EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN!



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## UTLA Strike

1 message

Jenna Sanz-Agero [REDACTED]

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 1:53 PM

To: "austin.beutner@lausd.net" <austin.beutner@lausd.net>

Cc: "superintendent@lausd.net" <superintendent@lausd.net>, "monica.garcia@lausd.net"

<monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "nick.melvoin@lausd.net" <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>,

"mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "tony@tonythurmond.com"

<tony@tonythurmond.com>

Dear Mr. Beutner,

I am writing to weigh in on this strike, as the parent of an elementary school student in the LAUSD District 4, and a proud public school educated family. We have thoroughly researched the positions of both parties involved in the current negotiations (LAUSD and UTLA, generally) and stand firmly in support of UTLA's position. I specifically want to address your concerns about potential diminishing enrollment. We have not seen anyone from LAUSD or elsewhere acknowledge the reality that diminishing enrollment is likely a crisis of LAUSD's own making. By continuing to increase class sizes and remove services, the LAUSD is making its schools much less attractive to those of us who can afford alternatives. In short, if you provide a better education system, the people will come.

We have a wonderful local school, with excellent, highly qualified and experienced teachers. Our family (and many others we know in the area) donate generously to our local school parent organizations so that our children can enjoy some of the benefits that LAUSD would otherwise not afford us. But we believe that these benefits should be available to all students, including those communities that may not have the kind of parental support capabilities that we do. Most importantly, though, if class sizes continue to increase, we will have no choice but to remove our child from the system. There is no world in which a teacher at middle school level, within a reasonable number of hours per work week, can effectively teach a class of 50 or more, with differing backgrounds, capabilities and needs.

As a related aside, I caution you to consider violation of local fire codes in your attempts to increase class sizes. I have been communicating with local LAFD inspectors about concerns regarding too many students in classrooms that are not authorized to house that many. If class sizes are increased, I can assure you a group of parents will very vocally pursue an investigation of the validity and safety of such proposed class sizes.

If your intention, as many have accused, is to dismantle public education entirely, in favor of privatization, I feel confident in stating that increasing class sizes will be the single best choice you can make to accomplish that goal – which would, of course, be a complete failure of the job for which you were selected.

Optics matter – and from our perspective, you should be the first at the negotiating table and the last to leave until a deal is reached. Otherwise, you should leave the job to someone who actually cares about educating our children.

Respectfully,

Jenna Sanz-Agero

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## RE: UTLA Strike

1 message

**Pollard-Terry, Gayle** <gayle.pollard-terry@lausd.net>

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 2:03 PM

To: Jenna Sanz-Agero <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Superintendent <superintendent@lausd.net>, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "tony@tonythurmond.com" <tony@tonythurmond.com>

Thank you for your email.

Los Angeles Unified schools are open, students are receiving instruction and meals are being served. This will continue throughout the UTLA strike.

Los Angeles Unified did not want a strike and offered UTLA leaders a \$565 million package to significantly reduce class sizes, and nearly 1,200 educators in schools and provide all UTLA members with 6% salary raises.

Los Angeles Unified remains committed to contract negotiations and will continue to work around the clock to find solutions to end the strike.

We have also established a Family Hotline at (213) 443-1300 to address any additional questions you may have. Updates about labor negotiations are also available at LAUSD.net.

Best regards,

Gayle Pollard-Terry


LAUSD Deputy Chief Communications Officer

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

O: 213.241.6766

[www.facebook.com/LosAngelesSchools](http://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesSchools)

LAUSD (@LASchools) | Twitter

**From:** Jenna Sanz-Agero [mailto:  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 1:54 PM  
**To:** Beutner, Austin <austin.beutner@lausd.net>  
**Cc:** Superintendent <superintendent@lausd.net>; García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net>; Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET>; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; tony@tonythurmond.com  
**Subject:** UTLA Strike

Dear Mr. Beutner,

I am writing to weigh in on this strike, as the parent of an elementary school student in the LAUSD District 4, and a proud public school educated family. We have thoroughly researched the positions of both parties involved in the current negotiations (LAUSD and UTLA, generally) and stand firmly in support of UTLA's position. I specifically want to address your concerns about potential diminishing enrollment. We have not seen anyone from LAUSD or elsewhere acknowledge the reality that diminishing enrollment is likely a crisis of LAUSD's own making. By continuing to increase class sizes and remove services, the LAUSD is making its schools much less attractive to those of us who can afford alternatives. In short, if you provide a better education system, the people will come.

We have a wonderful local school, with excellent, highly qualified and experienced teachers. Our family (and many others we know in the area) donate generously to our local school parent organizations so that our children can enjoy some of the benefits that LAUSD would otherwise not afford us. But we believe that these benefits should be available to all students, including those communities that may not have the kind of parental support capabilities that we do. Most importantly, though, if class sizes continue to increase, we will have no choice but to remove our child from the system. There is no world in which a teacher at middle school level, within a reasonable number of hours per work week, can effectively teach a class of 50 or more, with differing backgrounds, capabilities and needs.



As a related aside, I caution you to consider violation of local fire codes in your attempts to increase class sizes. I have been communicating with local LAFD inspectors about concerns regarding too many students in classrooms that are not authorized to house that many. If class sizes are increased, I can assure you a group of parents will very vocally pursue an investigation of the validity and safety of such proposed class sizes.

If your intention, as many have accused, is to dismantle public education entirely, in favor of privatization, I feel confident in stating that increasing class sizes will be the single best choice you can make to accomplish that goal – which would, of course, be a complete failure of the job for which you were selected.

Optics matter – and from our perspective, you should be the first at the negotiating table and the last to leave until a deal is reached. Otherwise, you should leave the job to someone who actually cares about educating our children.

Respectfully,

Jenna Sanz-Agero

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Support LAUSD Teachers

1 message

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angie8a <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 3:54 PM

Dear Major Garcetti,

I am writing to ask your office to intervene on behalf of and support the teachers and families of LAUSD and tell the district that they deserve a fair offer that includes permanently lower class sizes, and permanent additions to health and human services staff.

As one of the wealthiest states, there is no reason we should be #43 out of 50 in per student spending, while we are the 5th largest economy in the WORLD. So, please support our cause for smaller class size, nurses and school counselors. I stand with teachers.

Thanks!  
Angelica Ochoa

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## PLEASE NEGOTIATE!!! STOP THE STRIKE

1 message

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**Norma J. Verduzco** <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 4:10 PM

To: "austi.beutner@lausd.net" <austi.beutner@lausd.net>, "monica.garcia@lausd.net" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "nick.melvoin@laus.net" <nick.melvoin@laus.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "tony@tonythurmond.com" <tony@tonythurmond.com>

PLEASE STOP THE STRIKE! MEET AT THE TABLE! MY CHILDREN NEED THEIR TEACHERS BACK.

I'M NOT SENDING MY KIDS TO BE BABYSAT I CAN DO THAT AT HOME!

PLEASE NEGOTIATE NOW! SMALLER CLASSES, LESS TESTING, NURSES, PSYCHOLOGIST,

Norma Verduzco



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## I STAND WITH LA TEACHERS

1 message

Michele Garzon <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 4:59 PM

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

My children [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will not be attending school ((Woodland Hills Elementary Charter for Enriched Studies)) for the duration of the teacher strike. On these non-instructional days, the adults on campus will not have proper credentials, nor will they be familiarized with the curriculum, to teach my children. Since there will not be any real educational value on these days, it should not be counted against them. I do not feel comfortable allowing my children to attend school with adults who did not go through proper background checks, as my children's safety is my first priority. Therefore, they will not be back in school until trusted, credentialed, fingerprinted teachers and support staff are back.

My children and I support our LA teachers. We desperately need smaller class size, a nurse every day and counselors available for our students. What kind of community are we if we don't take care of our schools, our teachers, our kids? This is a teachable moment, one that is a sign of our times, and I am hopeful we will rise above.

So, instead of spending the day at school not learning, my children will be standing up for their right to a safe learning environment, striking alongside their teachers.

Sincerely,  
Michele Garzon  
A concerned parent



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## teacher's strike

1 message

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**Bonnie Hernandez** <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 6:14 PM

Mayor Garcetti,

First of all, I just want to say thanks for all you do for this great city. You serve the city well. But I write today to implore you to intervene in the teacher strike.

I am an elementary teacher of 21 years in LAUSD. I worked in Lincoln Heights and now in El Sereno. I could work in Whittier in a nice cushy school where I live and make more money, but I choose to serve the underprivileged children of this city. It is my calling and my blessing everyday that the LORD let's me do this job. I LOVE MY KIDS!, but this charter thing is out of control and it effects everything in our district. I know that is partially Villaragoza's fault not yours, and the fact the state gives us so little money.

Please bring these Alex AND Austin to the table. They are like the school bullies who ruin the whole recess for everyone! You can be like the principal calling the two guys who are disrupting the playground to the office to work it out, so that the kids at school can play in peace! Seriously, they both don't want to back down. You seem to be the only one who can get both of them to make a compromise.

We teacher's know we can't get everything, but our students need services. Just this year 2 students' parents have been murdered. These children need counseling. A few months ago a child broke a bone and there was no nurse! At my school we have 3 combination grade classes because of the class size numbers. I have a 3rd/4th grade class and it is not fair to ANYONE!

I am in this for the long hall, but I am worried about MY KIDS (students). Every day this drags on they get further behind. And I am also worried for my parents, many of them are PAYING for babysitters or losing work and staying home to support our fight because they also see how little the district pays for all the things. They message me every night ... "will you be at school tomorrow teacher?" and I have to say no. We all need you to step in and bring them together to work out a deal that will be a positive impact for all the kids.

Thank you,  
Bonnie Hernandez  
LAUSD Teacher

## Kudos to Scott Schmerelson for standing with teachers!

1 message

Joanna Belson

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 6:59 PM

To: "Scott M. Schmerelson" <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, arlene.irlando@lausd.net  
Cc: austin.beutner@lausd.net, george.mckenna@lausd.net, richard.vladovic@lausd.net,  
monica.garcia@lausd.net, kelly.gonez@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org,  
Tony@tonythurmond.com

This is why we elected Scott Schmerelson to represent our family and children. Kudos to him for speaking out, standing up and doing what's right for our kids. Thank you Scott!!!  
Keep up the great work. You are an authentic and genuine person and we appreciate that!  
Joanna Belson

### 2 attachments

Where Did I Find It?

1. The first attachment is a letter from Scott Schmerelson to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education. The letter is dated January 16, 2019, and is addressed to the Board. It discusses the importance of supporting teachers and the role of the Board in ensuring that teachers are properly compensated and supported. The letter also mentions the importance of maintaining high standards for students and the role of the Board in ensuring that the district is providing a high-quality education for all students.

2. The second attachment is a letter from Scott Schmerelson to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education. The letter is dated January 16, 2019, and is addressed to the Board. It discusses the importance of supporting teachers and the role of the Board in ensuring that teachers are properly compensated and supported. The letter also mentions the importance of maintaining high standards for students and the role of the Board in ensuring that the district is providing a high-quality education for all students.

image1.jpeg  
328K

image2.jpeg  
317K

1. The first step is to identify the problem. In this case, the problem is that the company is not meeting its financial goals. The second step is to analyze the data. The third step is to develop a plan. The fourth step is to implement the plan. The fifth step is to evaluate the results. The sixth step is to make adjustments. The seventh step is to monitor the progress. The eighth step is to report the findings. The ninth step is to conclude the study. The tenth step is to publish the results.

## Where Do I Stand?

*A Statement by Board Member Scott Schmierelson on Day 3 of the Teacher Work Stoppage*

The repeated message to Board Members, over the last several months, was that the only way to avoid a strike was for the Board to speak with one voice. I have struggled with this concept because it is clear to everyone, who is paying attention, that the one voice that the Board majority supports is that of Austin Beutner.

I very publicly opposed hiring Mr. Beutner and nothing in my experience with him since last May has inspired confidence in his ability to provide effective leadership, accountability or transparency in his efforts, as a non-educator, to manage our school district and the future of public education in Los Angeles. I can no longer allow Mr. Beutner to speak for me or to suggest that the massive public relations, and often misinformation, campaign that he is waging represents my views about the current teachers strike. We need to end the strike and get back to our teachers teaching and our kids learning.

My constituents, and parents throughout the District, are demanding to know just where I stand. I will tell you: As a retired LAUSD teacher, counselor, and principal, I dedicated my life and career serving LAUSD kids. I continue to stand with the kids. For me, this means that ***I Stand with Teachers*** because today they are standing for what's best for students.

Our teachers are the foundation of our mission to provide a quality public education and opportunity for every child that passes through our school gates. They are dedicated professionals who work hard to serve our kids despite the very trying conditions for our families and their families that come with teaching in an urban school district like LAUSD. Our teachers deserve respect and fair compensation.

I also believe that too many of our classrooms are too crowded to truly serve our students. For example, how can we say that we are putting kids first when there are 45 students in an Algebra class? The recent Neutral Fact Finder between the parties agreed that "lower class sizes are one of the best predictors of successful teaching and student success." He also agreed that "lowering class size may be one of the keys to increasing ADA, and maintaining and recruiting students to LAUSD."

We need to find a way to significantly lower class size, not based on misleading district averages, but at every school site where there are just too many students in one room for the effective teaching and personalization to which we lend so much lip service.



I also agree that we need to work much harder to provide more support staff at all our schools. As a retired principal, I can tell you that our parents do not understand, nor should they, why many of our schools only have a nurse one day a week. We absolutely need more social workers, librarians and college counselors. How can we constantly talk about 100% graduation, and our students being college prepared, if our secondary students do not have adequate and easy access to a college counselor?

I am not convinced that we have tried our hardest to identify additional resources to fund what our kids need. This point became extraordinarily clear to me last June when Dr. McKenna and I put forward a resolution to place a parcel tax on the ballot in November based on polling that predicted ample voter support for a sensible measure to increase funding for our schools. Yet, by the narrowest Board majority, our resolution was defeated. In November, voters approved nine of the ten parcel tax or school bond measures on the ballot in Los Angeles County.

Instead of repeating the "doom, gloom and heading for bankruptcy" predictions that we have heard for decades, I believe that it is Mr. Beutner's job to honestly identify sources of funding buried in our existing budget, and the revenue growth predicted for next year, that could be creatively sourced and invested in the students who need smaller classes and adequate support services now.

LAUSD has a nearly \$2 billion reserve. Of course, we have financial commitments and need to plan for rainy days. Nevertheless, I believe that Mr. Beutner could at least temporarily repurpose a larger share of this reserve, for the benefit of kids, that could be repaid when additional sources of revenue have been identified and secured. We also need to work with state officials to increase school funding and resources to reflect the values we hold dear as Californians but such efforts do not offer immediate solutions for our students.

As a democratically elected trustee, sworn to protect our children and the long term stability of Los Angeles Unified, I believe that there are resources available to end this strike. What I do not see from Austin Beutner, and his supporters, is the political will to substitute constructive negotiations for the fear mongering, expensive taxpayer funded ads, slanted editorials and endless press conferences.

I am but one voice and one vote on the Board, but I believe that the posturing must stop and a sincere and adequate offer put on the table that will better serve our students and end this strike.

This is where I stand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott M. Schmerelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Scott M. Schmerelson**  
Board Member, District 3



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Strike

1 message

**Astrid Janette Ruvalcaba** <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 8:15 PM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net

Cc: monica.garcia@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org,

Tony@tonythurmond.com

Dear Mr. Beutner, Mrs. Garcia, Mr. Melvin, Mr. Thurmond, and Mr. Newson,

I would like to express my extreme disappointment with the strike situation. I have two children who attend lausd schools and have been severely impacted by this strike. I am fortunate enough to rearrange my work schedule therefore I am able to have my children home with me. I understand you are trying to keep the school open for children but with the lack of staff children can run amok. Call me over protective but I was once a teenager and remember what it was like to have limited supervision. I hope you can come to an understanding with the union because these teachers work everyday with children in a seemingly impossible atmosphere. 21 children/ Adult is unrealistic I have seen it with my own eyes, while the teacher helps one child 3 other are running wild. Children slip by the education system not learning the basics due to a system that is strained in staff and funds. I ask where do you send your children to school? What do you look for in schools that give you peace of mind sending your children day in, day out? Take the time to see that CHILDREN are the ones that are suffering. Sometimes ignorance is bliss but in this case enough is enough. My family stands with the teachers and I will not be sending my children to school until the teacher to child ratio is reasonable.

Sincerely,  
Astrid Ruvalcaba



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Help

1 message

**Suzanne Francis** <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 9:16 PM

To: tony@tonythurmond.com, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Dear Mayor Garcetti and Mr. Thurmond (My address for Governor Newsom didn't work, so I will send through his site.)

It is Day 3 of the strike for public education. Are you there? Can you help resuscitate LAUSD and public education? Do you feel as though the very system is being threatened? Because I do.

I am fortunate enough to work from home and am choosing to alter my hours and "homeschool" my elementary aged kids, best I can, while their teachers are on strike. I am hearing about board games, chaos, and movies in the place of instruction and structure. Some are mentioning that this strike is hurting kids... I say, the LAUSD kids have been hurting long enough. Nurses, librarians, and school psychologists are necessary to a positive educational environment. It's really a no-brainer. How is this even a question? And yes, teachers do need to get paid more and they do need more funding for their classrooms in LAUSD. Teachers themselves fund a good portion of their supplies... what other jobs need to purchase the things they need to do their job? I can't name one. How do I know this for sure? My husband is a music teacher. The system is broken. Please step in and help fix it. We need public servants who care. Are you there?

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Francis



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## LAUSD teacher strike

1 message

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Ann Salvador <[REDACTED]>  
To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 9:36 PM

Good evening, Mayor Garcetti,

I am a concerned resident of LA county. I would like to know how are you helping the LAUSD teachers and LA superintendent negotiate, so our students are able to get back to school and learn. Everyone is affected by the strike. Please end the strike help the LAUSD teachers. Meet with them. Negotiate with them. In the end, our students will suffer, not the district and not the teachers.

Sincerely,  
Ann Salvador



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Lausd Strike

1 message

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**Belinda Mossler** <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 9:35 PM

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

Thank you so much for getting involved in helping LAUSD and UTLA come together. Our city appreciates your involvement.

Also, my school, Germain Academy in Chatsworth, really appreciates all of the LAPD officers you have sent. They have been wonderful. My teachers have really enjoyed having them with us.

Now let's get this strike settled.

Respectfully,  
Belinda Mossler  
UTLA Chapter Chair  
Germain Academy



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## Please help

1 message

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Inna Kopelevich <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 9:39 PM

Dear Mr. Garcetti, I am an LA teacher and a product of LAUSD. I am also an immigrant born in the former Soviet Union. I came to the US as a small child, and I owe my teachers so much. I learned English in 2 months. My teachers always looked out for me, accelerated me when I was ready, and gave me a strong foundation so that that I was able to soon thrive.

I believe that "Education is the Great Equalizer" and growing up, always knew, that I will "give back" - by becoming an educator. This is my fourteenth year teaching and currently, I work at LACES - a Magnet school in LA - teaching mathematics. I along, with my colleagues work tirelessly to provide as best of an education as possible (with the limited resources) to our students. Most of us, put in an extra 10 -20 hours per week for grading, planning, and creating engaging and inspiring lessons.

We are all committed to teaching and educating every child, but with the huge class sizes, as much as we try, it becomes an impossible task to reach every single student and to provide them All with what they may need. I am asking you to please consider what UTLA is asking for and to please consider all of our kids and what is best for them - we need a nurse, we need a cap on class sizes - then we can get that much closer to truly Closing the Achievement Gap and 100% graduation.

Best,  
Inna Kopelevich  
LAUSD teacher



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## I support our teachers

1 message

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Karen Ann Thumm <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 10:12 PM

Hello,

Just want to say that I support the teachers in this strike and I would like to see more effort from you to end this strike.

My ten year old is home from school this week, stressed out and frightened because she is not at school. I am not going to send her to school to be babysat by a staff of people who can't even track attendance (we have not received any calls letting us know our daughter is not in school) instead of educating her.

And I am ashamed of LAUSD for letting this happen. Please do all that you can to reopen negotiations and solve this. I want my daughter back in her class where she deserves to be.

Sincerely,  
Karen Thumm  
Mother of [REDACTED] 5th Grader at Welby Way



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## WE ARE WITH TEACHERS

1 message

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**Khushboo Patangia** <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 11:18 PM

We want strike to end soon and want best for our kids !





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Lausd strike

1 message

[REDACTED]  
To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 6:13 AM

Hello Mayor Garcetti,

I am a teacher and parent of a preschooler in the PAL program. I Want to thank you for being there for us teachers and students this week and being public about it. Thank you for your support and willingness to help this to be over ASAP. I'm not asking for you to help with money but to make sure LAUSD uses their reserve and that the contract protects the students learning environment concerning their class sizes. We, teachers, are physically and emotionally drained from this and want to get back to educating our students. As a parent of a special education student, he needs to get back to his schedule and be in his normal learning environment. Thank you again for listening and taking your time to help mediate both sides.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Support LAUSD Teachers

1 message

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**Cate Wheeler** <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 6:40 AM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Mayor Garcetti,

I am at parent of a student at Beckford Elementary. I support LAUSD teachers and want LAUSD to provide a resolution that includes smaller class sizes, less mandated testing, nurses, librarians, counselors and pay for our teachers.

Cate Wheeler



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## I STAND WITH TEACHERS

1 message

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**Michele Garzon** <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 6:55 AM

Mayor Garcetti,

My children [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will not be attending school ((Woodland Hills Elementary Charter for Enriched Studies) for the duration of the teacher strike. On these non-instructional days, the adults on campus will not have proper credentials, nor will they be familiarized with the curriculum, to teach my children. Since there will not be any real educational value on these days, it should not be counted against them. I do not feel comfortable allowing my children to attend school with adults who did not go through proper background checks, as my children's safety is my first priority. Therefore, they will not be back in school until trusted, credentialed, fingerprinted teachers and support staff are back.

My children and I support our LA teachers. We desperately need smaller class sizes, a nurse every day and counselors available for our students. What kind of community are we if we don't take care of our schools, our teachers, our kids? This is a teachable moment, one that is a sign of our times, and I am hopeful we will rise above.

So, instead of spending the day at school not learning, my children will be standing up for their right to a safe learning environment, striking alongside their teachers.

Sincerely,  
Michele Garzon  
A concerned parent



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Re: Strike

1 message

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**Pollard-Terry, Gayle** <gayle.pollard-terry@lausd.net>

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 7:29 AM

To: Astrid Janette Ruvalcaba <[REDACTED]>

Cc: "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "Tony@tonythurmond.com" <Tony@tonythurmond.com>

Thank you for your email.

Los Angeles Unified schools are open, students are receiving instruction and meals are being served. This will continue throughout the UTLA strike.

Los Angeles Unified did not want a strike and offered UTLA leaders a \$565 million package to significantly reduce class sizes, and nearly 1,200 educators in schools and provide all UTLA members with 6% salary raises.

Los Angeles Unified remains committed to contract negotiations and will continue to work around the clock to find solutions to end the strike.

We have also established a Family Hotline at (213) 443-1300 to address any additional questions you may have. Updates about labor negotiations are also available at LAUSD.net.

Best regards,

Gayle Pollard-Terry

LAUSD Deputy Chief Communications Officer

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

O: 213.241.6766

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[LAUSD \(@LASchools\)](#) | [Twitter](#)

**From:** Astrid Janette Ruvalcaba <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 8:15 PM  
**To:** <austin.beutner@lausd.net>  
**Cc:** <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>, <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, <Tony@tonythurmond.com>  
**Subject:** Strike

Dear Mr. Beutner, Mrs. Garcia, Mr. Melvin, Mr. Thurmond, and Mr. Newson,

I would like to express my extreme disappointment with the strike situation. I have two children who attend lausd schools and have been severely impacted by this strike. I am fortunate enough to rearrange my work schedule therefore I am able to have my children home with me. I understand you are trying to keep the school open for children but with the lack of staff children can run amok. Call me over protective but I was once a teenager and remember what it was like to have limited supervision. I hope you can come to an understanding with the union because these teachers work everyday with children in a seemingly impossible atmosphere. 21 children/ Adult is unrealistic I have seen it with my own eyes, while the teacher helps one child 3 other are running wild. Children slip by the education system not learning the basics due to a system that is strained in staff and funds. I ask where do you send your children to school? What do you look for in schools that give you peace of mind sending your children day in, day out? Take the time to see that CHILDREN are the ones that are suffering. Sometimes ignorance is bliss but in this case enough is enough. My family stands with the teachers and I will not be sending my children to school until the teacher to child ratio is reasonable.

Sincerely,

Astrid Ruvalcaba



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## your comment

1 message

**Pollard-Terry, Gayle** <gayle.pollard-terry@lausd.net>

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 7:46 AM

To: "e. Son of John" <[REDACTED]>

Cc: "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>

Thank you for your email.

Please know that we are reading your comments.

Thank you,

Gayle Pollard-Terry

LAUSD Deputy Chief Communications Officer

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

O: 213.241.6766

[www.facebook.com/LosAngelesSchools](http://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesSchools)

[LAUSD \(@LASchools\)](#) | [Twitter](#)

**From:** e. Son of John [mailto:[REDACTED]]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 7:22 AM

**To:** Beutner, Austin <austin.beutner@lausd.net>

**Cc:** García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net>; mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org;

Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET>; Gonez, Kelly <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>; Vladovic, Richard <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>; Mckenna, George <george.mckenna@lausd.net>; Schmerelson, Scott M. <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>  
**Subject:** Wake Up and Smell The Coffee

Superintendent Beutner,

My high school English teacher used to always say, "wake up and smell the coffee". Sometimes it just seems like the right thing to say.

What follows is also one of the most eloquent statements regarding our current predicament. I will use this as my statement to you, sir.

Except for the next one where I say; Mr Beutner, you should resign.

Sincerely

Erik Johnson, a proud LAUSD parent.





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Help our Students!

1 message

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**Terry August** [REDACTED]  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 9:05 AM

As mayor of this city you should be on the front of this problem. You should be backing the schools and helping bring this awful strike to an end.

We have sacrificed our students so board members can take home a hefty paycheck. How will we have L.A. citizens who can secure and maintain good jobs if we don't educate them now? Don't you think a good education might help abate homelessness in the future? Give these young citizens a future?

I have a daughter and daughter in law and many friends who teach at schools throughout L.A. My daughter teaches the English Learners in High School. They go from a 2nd grade reading level to a 6th grade in a year but since they are only reading at a 6th grade level it looks like they are behind. But the statistic is going up!!

Yet those schools get penalized.

Public Education is not a for profit venture. It is about educating and giving these students what they need to build a good life.

The fact that you have as superintendent a guy with no experience with schools but was an investment banker is a sorry state of affairs.

Fix this! Back our teachers and more importantly our students and be a hero and help give a future to thousands.

Teresa and Walter August  
[REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Fw: parent of LAUSD children + Local 99 employee a small fish in the pond

1 message

Annie Andranian [REDACTED]

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 9:08 AM

To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Annie Andranian <[REDACTED]>

**To:** mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 17, 2019, 9:07:22 AM PST

**Subject:** parent of LAUSD children + Local 99 employee a small fish in the pond

Dear Eric Garcetti,

I am writing to you in behalf of our community this might not reach you but, had to do it anyway. I am a mother of 3 children and an employee of LAUSD. I feel that all the families are going through great anxiety and frustration through this process. If you do read this I am asking you to hurry and have this situation resolved for the children. The state that the children are in is very unfortunate and they have been robbed of there Teachers that they love so much with there education. Please I ask of you to bring the norm back. I am not only in the walk but I did attend my daughters school and she does not want to go back until her Teacher's comes back.

My oldest is fine he is just trying to ride it through but my 8th grade son pointed out a good point he stated "I thought that LAUSD wanted to improve the schools and not have children hate school I guess they are not a good role model."

I believe this is all going to result in major upsets and a lot of emotional issues. Please this is a S.O.S for all children!

Thank you for hearing me out.

Sincerely,

Annie Andranian



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Re: Teacher Strike

1 message

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**Harold Chuhlantseff** <Hchuhlantseff@worxsitehr.com>

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 9:59 AM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Good morning Mayor Garrett,

Checking in to see if you received the email on saving the City of Los Angeles money. Our presentation is 1 hour to see if its a fit for the City of Los Angeles.

I look forward to the opportunity of showing you our program

Sincerely,

Harold Chuhlantseff

On Jan 15, 2019, at 6:38 AM, Harold Chuhlantseff  
<Hchuhlantseff@worxsitehr.com> wrote:

Good Morning Mayor Eric Garcetti,

I have been watching and listening to the news about the Teachers Strike that is currently going on. I have a Wellness Program that is NO COST to the City of Los Angeles. Through a 125 Cafeteria Program the City of Los Angeles can save approximately \$35.00 per month per employee. We also have the ability to SUBSIDIZE your Workers' Compensation Payments up to 30% to 40%.

What does that mean in terms of a CASH SAVINGS to the City of Los Angeles.

Based on 150,000 Employees

Savings with Wellness

$\$35.00 \times 150,000 = \$ 5,250,000$  per month

Estimated Payments towards Self Insured Workers' Comp

Took  $150,000 \times \$45,000$  annual salary = \$ 6,750,000,000 X Workers' Comp

Rate of 10% = \$ 675,000,000 in Estimated Annual Payments into your Self  
Funded Program.

With our SUBSIDIZED contribution towards your Workers' Comp of \$  
202,500,000 per year.

The total estimated ANNUAL SAVINGS to the City of Los Angeles would be around \$ 265,500,000.00.

There is a lot of money to help the City of Los Angeles narrow the gap with the Teachers. Also with our WELLNESS Program we can develop a very comprehensive Program just for the City of Los Angeles.

I would really like the opportunity to meet with the committee in charge of making decisions for the City of Los Angeles. I believe we have a Program that all parties can benefit from.

Feel free to contact me at 559-696-5117 or by email at [Hchuhlantseff@worxsitehr.com](mailto:Hchuhlantseff@worxsitehr.com)

Thank you for your time, I look forward to working with the City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Harold Chuhlantseff



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## I support UTLA's demands

1 message

Audrey Diehl <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 10:36 AM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, "mayor@lacity.org" <mayor@lacity.org>

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

I tried calling but your mailbox is full, so this will have to do. I am a LAUSD parent (3rd grader at Mt. Washington Elementary and another on the way to school in 2 years), and I want to make sure you go into today's negotiations between UTLA and LAUSD knowing that **the parents of LAUSD support our teachers' demands.**

What UTLA is asking for is necessary and very reasonable. Good public education is a VITAL service for all communities in Los Angeles, and the teachers' requests will benefit everyone in Los Angeles. I support their demands for a fair wage increase--no strings attached--and for a true cap on class sizes that can't be abandoned if the district claims a "financial emergency." I also agree that we need more nurses, counselors and librarians in our schools. I have seen issues crop up at my own LAUSD school because there was no nurse on campus that day, or no guidance counselor to help mediate a conflict between children.

Superintendent Buetner and LAUSD have been very dishonest during this negotiation so far, and I ask that you hold them to account and make sure they aren't spreading misinformation or making offers that are only good for one school year. Our public schools need help, and they need a superintendent and school board that believes in the value of community schools and public school campuses.

Know that parents in LAUSD are watching this negotiation closely, and we expect you to help our teachers get more resources for our kids and our schools.

Thank you,  
Audrey Diehl



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## LAUSD Strike needs to end

1 message

Erica Salzman [REDACTED]

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 11:04 AM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

I am an LAUSD School Psychologist and I believe that UTLA deserves a fair contract that addresses all the goals below.

- smaller class sizes
- a 6% pay raise
- more nurses, psychiatric social workers, counselor and other critical support staff (nurses/counselors are only at schools 1 day/week)
- less mandated testing
- reinvest in special, adult, early and bilingual education
- regulation of charter schools

I support each of these goals and implore you to use your political clout and influence in order to pressure the district to negotiate in good faith. This strike needs to END.

Sincerely,  
Erica Salzman



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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**Delmy mejia**



Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 11:26 AM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

As a Californian citizen I've been concerned with our education system for some time now. What the teacher are asking for is what our students need. We can't succeed when our school system is set up to fail. We are standing now! Now is the time to make a change for our future! Our kids are our future! California stands together and we want change now!!!



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## LAUSD Teacher Strike

1 message

David Phipps [REDACTED]

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 11:36 AM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, angie.aramayo@lacity.org, mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org

Dear Mayor Garcetti and Support Staff,

I tried to call your office, but just received a voicemail instructing me to leave a message but then the voicemail box was full.

I want to let the Mayor know that as a resident of the City of L.A., though I am not a parent and have no children in school, I am in full support of the striking teachers and their demands for smaller class sizes, better wages, and better support services for both them and their students.

I fully support public education and am opposed to the charter school movement which siphons necessary money from our public schools.

Thank you,  
David Phipps

[REDACTED]

(LAUSD District 4)





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Support UTLA

1 message

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**Elizabeth Gutierrez** [REDACTED]  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 11:44 AM

Mayor Garcetti,

Our schools have been starved of funding, resulting in a crisis situation in our prosperous state. I urge you to do more to help the parties negotiate a satisfactory agreement to resolve the UTLA strike. I unequivocally support the teachers, while I recognize that LAUSD will need additional revenue sources to meet all demands over time. Our kids deserve librarians, nurses, social workers, reasonable class sizes, and more, and our teachers deserve wages commensurate with their hard work.

Your Constituent and an LAUSD mother of a 4th, 5th and 10th grader !



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Please help our teachers

1 message

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**Tracy Alvy** · [REDACTED]  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 11:47 AM

Hello, I am an LAUSD parent of two children. My children and I support our teachers and have been joining them on the picket lines during the strike. I

I ask you to help LAUSD and UTLA come to an acceptable and honest resolution so our teachers and children can return to learning in a productive and supportive environment.

Thank you,  
Tracy Alvy



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Help Current and Future Students of Los Angeles

1 message

Steph [REDACTED]

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 12:22 PM

To: superintendent@lausd.net, austin.beutner@lausd.net, monica.garica@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, tony@tonythurmand.com

Dear public education leaders and stakeholders,

As a parent of 2 elementary and 1 middle school children I support the teachers' strike for an improved education system. Classroom ratios should be revised to lower teacher-student ratios, full-time support staff such as nurses, counselors, and increase in salaries for hard-working teachers. Having to constantly donate money and supplies as a single, working parent can be a burden to my family financially. PLEASE increase funds to schools as they are to educate our future. Our children deserve all the support and a positive, clean, and safe learning environment.

Thank you,  
Stephanie Cortez



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Re: Help Current and Future Students of Los Angeles

1 message

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**Pollard-Terry, Gayle** <gayle.pollard-terry@lausd.net> Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 12:47 PM  
To: Steph <[REDACTED]>, "monica.garica@lausd.net" <monica.garica@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "tony@tonythurmand.com" <tony@tonythurmand.com>

Thank you for your email.

Los Angeles Unified schools are open, students are receiving instruction and meals are being served. This will continue throughout the UTLA strike.

Los Angeles Unified did not want a strike and offered UTLA leaders a \$565 million package to significantly reduce class sizes, and nearly 1,200 educators in schools and provide all UTLA members with 6% salary raises.

Los Angeles Unified remains committed to contract negotiations and will continue to work around the clock to find solutions to end the strike.

We have also established a Family Hotline at (213) 443-1300 to address any additional questions you may have. Updates about labor negotiations are also available at LAUSD.net.

Best regards,

Gayle Pollard-Terry

LAUSD Deputy Chief Communications Officer

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

O: 213.241.6766

[www.facebook.com/LosAngelesSchools](http://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesSchools)

[LAUSD \(@LASchools\) | Twitter](#)

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**From:** Steph <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 12:22 PM  
**To:** <superintendent@lausd.net>, <austin.beutner@lausd.net>, <monica.garica@lausd.net>, <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>, <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, <tony@tonythurmand.com>  
**Subject:** Help Current and Future Students of Los Angeles

Dear public education leaders and stakeholders,

As a parent of 2 elementary and 1 middle school children I support the teachers' strike for an improved education system. Classroom ratios should be revised to lower teacher-student ratios, full-time support staff such as nurses, counselors, and increase in salaries for hard-working teachers. Having to constantly donate money and supplies as a single, working parent can be a burden to my family financially. PLEASE increase funds to schools as they are to educate our future. Our children deserve all the support and a positive, clean, and safe learning environment.

Thank you,

Stephanie Cortez



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Please help end this strike

1 message

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Sharon Shingai <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 1:16 PM

To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

The teachers, students, support staff, and parents need your help in ending this strike. They all deserve better than what is being offered. Help us make LAUSD great again. Thank you.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## no more 50 student classes

1 message

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**Marietta LeSage Probst** [REDACTED]  
To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 1:55 PM

Dear Mr. Garcetti,

I am writing to support the LAUSD teachers. I feel it is not fair that they are fighting for appropriate class sizes. I grew up in Illinois where class size is limited by state law to 28 students for elementary schools and 31 students for upper grades. It should not have to fall on the teachers shoulders to limit this.

A friend's daughter has 50 in her class and my son has over 40 in several of his middle school classes.

Thus, I strongly support the teachers!

Thanks you,  
Marietta Probst  
[REDACTED]



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## LAUSD Teachers on Strike

1 message

Jeena Lee [REDACTED]

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 2:14 PM

To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Dear Mr. Garcetti,

My name is Jeena Lee, and I am a parent of two children attending Porter Ranch Community School in Porter Ranch, CA.

I'm writing to let you know that I support the LAUSD teachers during this strike and urge you to advise the LAUSD decision makers to provide a resolution that includes:

- Smaller classes
- Adequate school supplies (so teachers don't have to use their own money for basic necessities)
- Full-time nurses/librarians/counselors at EACH school
- Less mandated testing
- FAIR pay rates for teachers

LAUSD is the second largest public school district in the nation, and people all around the world are watching. Being in your position, I hope that you can influence the District to do the right thing. I'll be fully supporting the teachers until all these reasonable demands are met.

Thank you,

Jeena Lee





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Ending the Strike

1 message

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**Mary Seay** <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 8:09 PM

I am a LAUSD teacher and a parent of students who attend LAUSD schools. This week has been extremely tough. I walked with my daughters. I walk for my daughters and all of LAUSD students. They deserve it.

As the LAUSD board members continue into these negotiations, I ask that they fight for students like they were their own. They have the opportunity to create the kind of educational experience that they would want for their children. It does not take charter schools to do that. It takes a commitment and willingness to re-imagine the possibilities when schools have the necessary resource from our leadership.

Respectfully,

Mary Seay



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Hear my voice, for my children!

1 message

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Katie queen <[REDACTED]>  
To: "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 6:02 AM

January 18, 2019

Dear Mayor,

I am a mother of 3 children who attend Open Charter Magnet School and LACES in Los Angeles. I am also a higher education public educator myself at LACCD. My family has been striking with the teachers and will continue to do so until UTLA and LAUSD can agree to a new contract. As a parent, I am asking you to do your job for the children of Los Angeles, our city's future. Please work to find the funds and push to change prop 13. Our students deserve more. I am asking for permanent reduced class sizes, without limits to 1-year deals or financial plight to reverse if needed. We need more funding for IEP programs and nurses 5 days a week. Unlike many other people, I do believe that charter schools should be here, they are making a difference. I also believe that we should have limits to charter schools, transparency of their funding, more regulations and consequences for mismanagement of funds. 80% of the city supports the LAUSD teachers, public education needs to stay public. Corporations have no place in education, period!

The teachers should receive a living wage with yearly cost of living increases. I know the money is here. We (California) are the 5th largest economy in the world. Invest in Los Angeles; invest in our city's future. Support reduction of standardized testing, leave more room for educating.

Please encourage Beutner to resign, his position he should never have been appointed. Economists have a place at the table because money is an issue, but not at the head of the table. Educators need to have a voice. Make better choices with transparency. Work to get the union and the district to come together and leave egos at the door. Thank you for your time.

Best Regards, Katie Queen



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Attention

1 message

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**Yesenia Villa** [REDACTED] Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 8:28 AM  
To: "austin.beutner@lausd.net" <austin.beutner@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "monica.garcia@lausd.net" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "nick.melvoin@lausd.net" <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>, "superintendent@cde.ca.gov" <superintendent@cde.ca.gov>

To whom it may concern,

Please fund and help the teachers of the LAUSD. They teach children who will be grow up to be important people like you.

No kid will learn with large class size or will receive the aid they need. We have better funding. You are keeping a atudent away from a better life and education. Please come to an agreement. Put yourself in the shoes of a parent, a sister or aunt/uncle. Wouldnt you want the best for that child. Or do u want this beautiful city to be known as the lowest and uneducated city. That is up to you. Please make a chnage happen.

I stand with LAUSD teacher and will not send my three children to school until there are actual teacher with credentials.

Sincerely

Yesenia villa



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Suggestions

1 message

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Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 9:27 AM

[REDACTED]  
To: Austin.Beutner@mail.achieve.lausd.net, abeutner@mail.achiever.lausd.net,  
info@achieve.lausd.net, betsy.devos@mail.whitehouse.gov  
Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Sir

In light of the unfortunate turn of events, I suggest you use this as a clinical trial. Will the children be healthier as a function of not being exposed to the toxic liberal constituency of teachers? In all seriousness consider

Luminosity.com as well as giving guidance to people who could help the schools in this transition. Can a junior college room be used etc. Look at this as an opportunity to ween out the real Neanderthal teachers. There is nothing wrong with that.

Thanks

Stephen Bonick



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Rosalinda Hernandez & Adam S Perez

1 message

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**Rosalinda Hernandez** <Rosalinda.Hernandez@coverall.com> Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 9:36 AM  
To: "superintendent@lausd.net" <superintendent@lausd.net>  
Cc: "monica.garcia@lausd.net" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "nick.melvoin@lausd.net" <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "tony@tonyhurmond.com" <tony@tonyhurmond.com>

**Rosalinda Hernandez**  
*Senior Outside Sales Consultant*

626-344-6551

2923 Bradley St Ste. 110  
Pasadena, CA 91107

**coverall.com**

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**LAUSD letttert.docx**

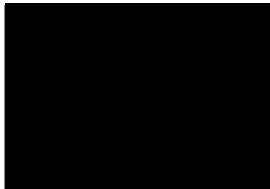
12K

**LAUSD SCHOOLS: Call for Action:**

We are concerned parents, Rosalinda Hernandez & Adam S Perez. Our daughter attends the PAUSD district (Pasadena School District) We are speaking out for all teachers, parents and the children of our future. Our schools need a lot more funding to sustain all the budgets of our educators, staff, and everyone involved in our schools and children's education. There is so much funding so unnecessary improvements all over the Country of Los Angeles. It's time we take action, make the proper changes to help our educators and keep our children's education protected. Many parents such as our household can't afford private education. We do our best to provide our daughter with the best schools in our area. Recently Willard Elementary had some recent budget cuts. They had to cut back on the Mandarin Teacher, the Librarian and Health education. Please understand our important this is to our communities. I thank you for your attention and time.

Concerned parents,

Rosalinda Hernandez & Adam S Perez





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Kudos to Scott Schmerelson for standing with teachers!

1 message

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Joanna Belson <[REDACTED]> Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 9:55 AM

To: Superintendent@cde.ca.gov, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, austin.beutner@lausd.net, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Irlando, Arlene" <arlene.irlando@lausd.net>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, "Melvoin, Nick" <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>

A picture says a thousand words...look at UTLA and our elected school board member Scott Schmerelson supporting teachers in our 2 mile human chain of kids and parents. They showed up AND are actually standing up and speaking out to do what our state, city, and school has let us down continuously over the years to put us into this dire situation.

I will keep my kids home until the rest of you stand up to Austin, like Scott and George have, and the remaining board members who are bought by billionaires. We are educated parents and can see through your PR.

Please just show up to negotiate.

Thanks! Joanna Belson <[REDACTED]>







Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## I STAND WITH TEACHERS

1 message

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**Michele Garzon** [REDACTED]  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 10:26 AM

Mayor Garcetti,

My children [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will not be attending school ((Woodland Hills Elementary Charter for Enriched Studies) for the duration of the teacher strike. On these non-instructional days, the adults on campus will not have proper credentials, nor will they be familiarized with the curriculum, to teach my children. Since there will not be any real educational value on these days, it should not be counted against them. I do not feel comfortable allowing my children to attend school with adults who did not go through proper background checks, as my children's safety is my first priority. Therefore, they will not be back in school until trusted, credentialed, fingerprinted teachers and support staff are back.

My children and I support our LA teachers. We desperately need smaller class sizes, a nurse every day and counselors available for our students. What kind of community are we if we don't take care of our schools, our teachers, our kids? This is a teachable moment, one that is a sign of our times, and I am hopeful we will rise above.

So, instead of spending the day at school not learning, my children will be standing up for their right to a safe learning environment, striking alongside their teachers.

Sincerely,  
Michele Garzon  
A concerned parent



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Re: Kudos to Scott Schmerelson for standing with teachers!

1 message

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**Pollard-Terry, Gayle** <gayle.pollard-terry@lausd.net> Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 11:01 AM  
To: Joanna Belson <[REDACTED]>, "Superintendent@cde.ca.gov"  
<Superintendent@cde.ca.gov>, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Irlando, Arlene" <arlene.irlando@lausd.net>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>

According to the Mayor, negotiations lasted until just after midnight yesterday and will resume today at 11. Best regards,

Gayle Pollard-Terry

LAUSD Deputy Chief Communications Officer

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

O: 213.241.6766

[www.facebook.com/LosAngelesSchools](https://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesSchools)

LAUSD (@LASchools) | Twitter

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**From:** Joanna Belson <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Friday, January 18, 2019 at 9:55 AM  
**To:** <Superintendent@cde.ca.gov>, García, "Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, <austin.beutner@lausd.net>, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, Arlene Irlando <arlene.irlando@lausd.net>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>,</p></div>

<mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, "Melvoin, Nick" <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>

**Subject:** Kudos to Scott Schmerelson for standing with teachers!

A picture says a thousand words...look at UTLA and our elected school board member Scott Schmerelson supporting teachers in our 2 mile human chain of kids and parents. They showed up AND are actually standing up and speaking out to do what our state, city, and school has let us down continuously over the years to put us into this dire situation.

I will keep my kids home until the rest of you stand up to Austin, like Scott and George have, and the remaining board members who are bought by billionaires. We are educated parents and can see through your PR.

Please just show up to negotiate.

Thanks! Joanna Belson [REDACTED]





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Re: Please Help - Urgent

1 message

Suzanne Francis [REDACTED]

Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 11:21 AM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Thank you, Mayor Garcetti. From what I've read, it seems as though you are really trying to help in these LAUSD and UTLA negotiations. Everyday I find myself wondering... how are we fighting over these basic needs for education? Apart from my concern about where public service has gone, I keep thinking about our country's values... where are we putting our money? Thank you for being there and trying to help. I hope this ends well.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Francis

On Sat, Jan 12, 2019 at 12:27 PM Suzanne Francis [REDACTED] wrote:  
Dear Governor Newsom, Mayor Garrett, and Mr. Thurmond,

I am looking for public servants in a situation where it seems there are fewer and fewer. Does money and self interest really trump education in LA? It seems as though it does. If you're here to serve the public, we need you. I am a parent of two elementary school students and am feeling extremely frustrated and disappointed by the lack of progress between LAUSD and UTLA. It feels more like two business moguls negotiating a big sale, lying and twisting words, trying to get the better of the other. Shouldn't these "public servants" be working together to figure out how to serve our kids? Who at the table is trying to do that? Don't you think it's time you step in and help?

LAUSD has improvements to make and it seems as though the they - and board - are not working in the best interest of the students. Please help make LAUSD a better district, support the teachers and their goal of making a safer, better, more positive environment for our students. It doesn't seem like LAUSD has that goal in mind - and it certainly doesn't seem like the superintendent does. Suggesting elementary classroom sizes up to almost 40 students? (Perhaps he, while the teachers are on strike, should attempt to teach a classroom of 40 students for the day.) Allowing volunteers in during a strike with no background checks? WHO IS FIGHTING FOR OUR KIDS? Clearly not LAUSD. Are you? We need your help.

The situation has gotten worse and worse over the years via a corrupt charter money backed school board, mismanaged money, and just blatant misinformation from LAUSD, currently helmed by Superintendent Austin Beutner. (A man with zero background in education. If this doesn't scream of ulterior motives, what does? He makes \$350,000 a year while we squabble about dollars for teachers, nurses, and librarians? Where are our priorities? This is insane.)

As one of the wealthiest states, why are our schools so desperate for cash? School across the nation have arts, music, and PE in their classrooms every week. Not only are we lacking that, but we can't hire full-time nurses? Something is very wrong here. We pay plenty of taxes. Our kids deserve better. PLEASE support statewide initiatives such as the Schools and Communities First Act for the 2020 ballot that would provide \$5 billion for schools each year and close the carried interest loophole.

We need your support to change this model, putting our kids first and not school board politics. I am here to fight for my kids and for all of our kids... for our future. Again, I ask... are you?

Please support the cause for smaller class size, nurses, and school counselors. I stand with the teachers. I stand with the kids. I believe in public education. I believe it's important and should be valued. I hope you do too.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Francis



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Thank you for your email to the Superintendent

1 message

**Pollard-Terry, Gayle** <gayle.pollard-terry@lausd.net>

Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 11:30 AM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Cc: "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "mayor.garcetti@lacity.org" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

According to the Mayor, negotiations lasted until just after midnight yesterday and were scheduled to resume today at 11. Best regards,

Gayle Pollard-Terry

LAUSD Deputy Chief Communications Officer

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

O: 213.241.6766

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LAUSD (@LASchools) | Twitter





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Please help the children

1 message

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Destiny Thomas <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 11:41 AM

To: monica.garcia@lausd.net, nick.melvoin@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org,  
tony@tonythurmond.com, beutner@lausd.net

Dear Sir,

I am a parent of two boys in 2nd grade and Kindergarten. Please help the lausd teacher strike end. The children are suffering. Teachers are needed to guide our little ones in life and for them to be good citizens of society. They help encourage our children to dream for more and strive and sacrifice to get that achieved.

Best Regards,

Destiny Thomas



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## Negotiations - LAUSD

1 message

Carin Truong <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 12:49 PM

Reply-To: Carin Truong <[REDACTED]>

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Thank you Mayor for assisting in this process! I want to be sure our voices as School Psychologists are heard as well.

As we strike for education reform to lower class size with real and enforceable limits, school psychologists are 100% behind these profoundly important reforms. School psychologists, who only number about 750 compared to about 30,000 teachers, also expect reforms specific to our work. Currently, school psychologist's contract states we are to have a "reasonable workload" but that has been abused for decades. School climate surveys conducted by UTLA and the district show that a vast majority of school psychologists are made to work far beyond our contracted 8-hour work day. This must stop. We implore you NOT to accept any LAUSD offer which doesn't put teeth into our demand for appropriate class size ratios AND school psychologist ratios. Specifically, we are demanding a ratio of one full time school psychologist to every 750 students. This is the conservative ratio put forth by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP).

Please DO NOT forget about how the district has abused the "reasonable workload" wording in our current contract. Please do NOT put a contract to vote without ensuring that school psychologist ratios and our workload is in the new contract, and is enforceable. A simple "workload committee" with no real decision power by field psychologists is NOT sufficient.

Feel free to contact me if you need more information about this or to understand how crucial this issue is to the children and to us. Let's fight together for the students, the teachers, and school psychologists who are on the front-line with the most at-risk students.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss this matter further. I can be reached at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Carin Truong



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## I STAND WITH TEACHERS

1 message

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**Michele Garzon** <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Mon, Jan 21, 2019 at 7:31 AM

Mayor Garcetti,

My children [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will not be attending school ((Woodland Hills Elementary Charter for Enriched Studies)) for the duration of the teacher strike. On these non-instructional days, the adults on campus will not have proper credentials, nor will they be familiarized with the curriculum, to teach my children. Since there will not be any real educational value on these days, it should not be counted against them. I do not feel comfortable allowing my children to attend school with adults who did not go through proper background checks, as my children's safety is my first priority. Therefore, they will not be back in school until trusted, credentialed, fingerprinted teachers and support staff are back.

My children and I support our LA teachers. We desperately need smaller class sizes, a nurse every day and counselors available for our students. What kind of community are we if we don't take care of our schools, our teachers, our kids? This is a teachable moment, one that is a sign of our times, and I am hopeful we will rise above.

So, instead of spending the day at school not learning, my children will be standing up for their right to a safe learning environment, striking alongside their teachers.

Sincerely,  
Michele Garzon  
A concerned parent



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Teacher Strike

1 message

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**Robert Joseph** [REDACTED]  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Mon, Jan 21, 2019 at 8:38 AM

Dr Mayor Garcetti,

My son attends TS King Middle School. He will be starting high school next year. The sheer number of kids squeezed into classrooms at all of the high schools I toured was astounding. There was barely room to walk, let alone show that many kids the attention and care they need to learn. We support the teachers and what they are bargaining for. 40 plus kids in a classroom is ridiculous, there is no way to properly teach that many kids. Not having wrap around support full time at all schools is unacceptable. Nurses and counselors are a must. Teaching is one of the most important jobs there is and I want my child to receive the education he deserves. With the current classroom conditions, lack of support and underfunding I don't feel he is going to get that. You must end this strike and come to an agreement about these demands.

I am a union member and I refuse to have my son cross the picket line so we have kept him home. Along with other parents we have been organizing things for the kids to do last week and will continue to do so as long as the strike goes on. Our preference though, is to get them back into the classroom as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Joseph  
TS King Middle School parent



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Concerned LAUSD parent

1 message

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Heather Lynn <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Jan 21, 2019 at 1:40 PM

To: Monica.garcua@lausd.net, Nick.melvoin@lausd.net, Mayor.garcetti@lacity.org,  
Tony@tonythurmond.com

To whom it may concern,

I am a parent of a child who is effected by this strike. It has been an entire week of little to no supervision at my child's school so he has not been going. I don't know what is happening with negotiations but it needs to happen fast. I urge you to figure this out and give the teachers what they are asking for. I agree with their stance and believe that class sizes are much too large and there needs to be school nurse at all times. Teachers are extremely under appreciated and it is public knowledge that the people who run LAUSD have salaries that exceed what is appropriate. Teachers and our child deserve more than this. I am not going to send my child to school until this problem has been addressed. It would be not only dangerous for my child, but reckless parenting putting him under people's care that I do not know, who are unable to educate him properly. Please fix this!

-Heather Lynn

## UTLA vs LAUSD: An Unlevel Playing Field

1 message

Jack Humphreville <JackH@targetmediapartners.com>

Mon, Jan 21, 2019 at 9:52 PM

To: "Eric Garcetti (mayor.garcetti@lacity.org)" <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## UTLA vs LAUSD: An Unlevel Playing Field

**JACK HUMPHREVILLE**

21 JANUARY 2019



LA WATCHDOG--The management of the Los Angeles Unified School District and the representatives of the striking United Teachers Los Angeles have been meeting behind closed doors for almost a week,

trying to come to an agreement over salaries, class size, fully staffed schools (librarians nurses, counselors), the reorganization of the District into 32 districts, and a limit on charter and magnet schools.

At the same time, the political establishment in the City, County, and State has come out in support of the striking teachers, in large part because they do not want to antagonize the California Teachers Association, the largest contributor to political campaigns in the State of California, and its over 300,000 members.

But these politicians are all talk. They have not offered any money  
.....

<https://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/la-watchdog/16966-utla-vs-laUSD-an-unlevel-playing-field>



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

## 2 mile Human Chain Down Colfax Ave

1 message

Joanna Belson <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Jan 22, 2019 at 5:54 AM

To: austin.beutner@lausd.net, Tony@tonythurmond.com, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Irlando, Arlene" <arlene.irlando@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <nick.melvoin@lausd.net>

### Teachers Strike Chain Clip #1.mp4

I wanted to make sure you all saw our amazing video showing support from North Hollywood High School to Colfax Elementary To Walter Reed AND Carpenter Elementary. We had a 2 mile human chain and once again kept all the kids home!

It was so amazing to see everyone in our community supporting. We had the fire trucks, the garbage trucks EVERYONE IS SUPPORTING THE TEACHERS.  
We are done with large class sizes. We are done with your PR.

**We want you all to be more like Scott Schmerelson.** We voted this fine upstanding man in and he speaks for his constituents. **He speaks up in the face of opposition.**

I am sure Scott was not dining at Bestia, like Mr Beuter, on Saturday night. I am sure it was a VERY nice break from your negotiating. My friend saw you and her husband talked to you after your dinner.

**Show up to negotiating or walk off the job.** I would not have a job with your conflicting, from your own website, proficiency rates.

Thank you! **I will have 6 kid today at my house!** We are still keeping them home on purpose to get your attention!

Congrats on your first perfect score: 100% participation of schools in the strike!

Joanna Belson

Walter Reed & Colfax Elementary





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Re: 1/21/19 LAUSD UTLA negotiations update

1 message

Joanna Belson <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Jan 22, 2019 at 7:21 AM

To: Board Member Nick Melvoin <BD4Info@lausd.net>

Cc: austin.beutner@lausd.net, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, Superintendent@cde.ca.gov, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>

Nick: Your letter is insulting. We are purposely keeping our kids home to cost you and the district money. This is the way we need to get your attention away from your charter donors that have lined your pockets and fed you the Kool Aid.

Come back from the dark side Nick. It is ok. Scott can help you. Speak up. Do the right thing. We all see you for the pawn you are with the charters. It is sad. Would your mother be proud of you?  
#BeLikeScott

There should be a media black out in place to force Austin to sit at the table vs dining at Bestia, one of the most expensive restaurants in town.

I will have 6 kids at my home today who will not be going to school today or this week.

THE ENTIRE STATE SUPPORTS THE TEACHERS.

No one supports you and Beutner. You constituents are smart.

We see what you are doing.....what you are doing is irresponsible. You have turned your back on the people who have voted you in.

Thanks! Joanna Belson

On Mon, Jan 21, 2019 at 5:14 PM Board Member Nick Melvoin <BD4Info@lausd.net> wrote:

Hello,

Thank you again for reaching out about the LAUSD/UTLA negotiations over the last week. Negotiations have been progressing around the clock throughout the long weekend and continue as I write this email. LA Unified remains committed to doing everything we can to reach an agreement and get our kids back in the classroom and learning from their hard-working teachers.

While a media blackout is in place—to preserve the confidentiality of the discussions—I'm encouraged by the progress on both sides and only wish these conversations were had

months ago, as we had hoped. Despite this progress, UTLA unfortunately informed both us and the Mayor that they will strike tomorrow even if a contract agreement is reached today. They've also had a schedule, for some time now, of strike-related activities in place throughout the rest of this week. I remain hopeful it won't come to that. LA Unified has already lost over \$125 million as a result of the strike and that's money that should be on the table in these negotiations.

I hope you'll join me in advocating for an end to this strike. Continuing the disruption to our families, including our teachers, despite how negotiations are going, is irresponsible. Both parties should be focused on reaching an agreement, not on strike-related activities. If UTLA does continue, we will still keep schools open as our responsibility to our families, most of whom are living in poverty, does not end.

As we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this weekend, I am thinking of his reminder that, "Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle." We have all struggled over the past week. But we do so, all in our own ways, to ensure the promise of this nation and of this district is fulfilled: that all children will have access to a quality education that prepares them to thrive well beyond their years with L.A. Unified.

Together, we are confident we can make real on that promise.

I remain hopeful an agreement will be reached soon and teachers will return to their classrooms, and I appreciate your help in advocating for the same.

Best,

Nick

---

**Nick Melvoin**

---

LA Unified Board of Education

Vice President | District 4

[www.boardmembermelvoin.com](http://www.boardmembermelvoin.com)



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## Responding

1 message

---

**Reynado Flores** [REDACTED]

Tue, Jan 22, 2019 at 8:55 AM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Hi Mr Garcetti.

Im Reynaldo Flores.

When the teacher negotiations are going to finish or when do things this its going to be resolved.Are the two groups ready to negotiate.or still a lot a controversial.issue s. The news are not informing us whats going on.please keep me informed.

Thank you.

Sincerity.

Reynaldo Flores.



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

**Soy madera de dos niños de la escuela media y mis hijos no regresaran ala escuela asta que sus profesores vuelvan a sus aulas.**

1 message

---

marisoluribe96 <[REDACTED]>  
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Tue, Jan 22, 2019 at 9:22 AM

Sent from my Boost Mobile Phone.

## Re: How L.A. Came Together for Our Kids

1 message

Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 4:38 PM

To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Where were you 20 months ago ! We should have never had to go on strike !!!!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 27, 2019, at 9:37 AM, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org> wrote:

[View this email in your browser](#)



Hi Gail,

At a time when our country clings to tribal allegiances like badges of honor, I wondered if the strike would lead to long-awaited progress or to deepened divisions in my town.

I walked the blocks around City Hall, surrounded by teachers in red shirts; their commitment and enthusiasm was unlike anything I have felt in the five and a half years I have been mayor.



I took a group of five teachers out to lunch at a nearby deli and, over sandwiches, heard how tough their jobs had become and how genuinely

concerned they were for the state of our children's public education.

What teachers were fighting for had been years and decades in the making — California's fall from being number 1 in per-pupil spending to 43 in the nation; recession, co-located schools, inadequate investment in health, counseling, green space, and more, leaving too many campuses on life support.

At the same time, a nervous district, the survivor of previous broken promises, unfunded mandates, state and federal requirements, and the after-effects of a recession, lived with that past trauma that held back hope like a straitjacket.

This distrust was not created overnight.

Two days into the strike, I met with the superintendent and president of the school board and union leaders separately and we agreed to start formal negotiations together.

*Read more of my Op Ed in the L.A. Daily News.*



Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor



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Los Angeles Mayor's Office  
200 N Spring St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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## Re: How L.A. Came Together for Our Kids

1 message

esther solis

Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 5:25 PM

To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

To whom it may concern;

Being in the classroom for almost 40 years I know how difficult the job of teaching has become. Most parents are concerned about their children's education. Unfortunately lack of respect for the teachers is sometimes missing as there is no accountability for children's bad behavior in their home environment and it goes into the classroom.

Many teachers have to pull out of their own pockets for school supplies and materials used in the classroom. I realize the parents may not have an abundance of money but I don't see most children without cellphones or televisions in their homes.

As for smaller class sizes how are you going to keep them small when you have caravans of children coming from other countries? America has always been a compassionate nation which is a good thing. We can hire more teachers but many teachers are leaving this profession. I pray these contracts are honored as we need to put the education of our children first.

Esther Floch Solis

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 27, 2019, at 9:37 AM, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org> wrote:

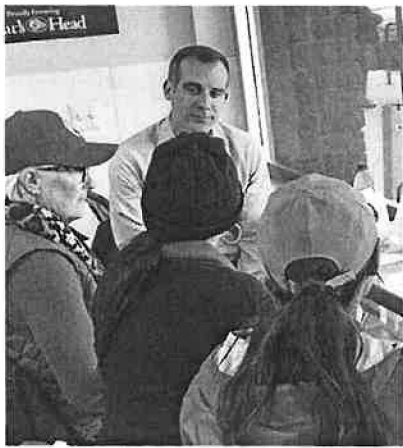
[View this email in your browser](#)



Hi Esther,

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I walked the blocks around City Hall, surrounded by teachers in red shirts; their commitment and enthusiasm was unlike anything I have felt in the five and a half years I have been mayor.



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[Read more of my Op Ed in the L.A. Daily News.](#)

Eric Garcetti  
Your Mayor





**Our mailing address is:**

Los Angeles Mayor's Office  
200 N Spring St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Add us to your address book

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

**Re: Latest updates from L.A. Unified**

1 message

---

**Shim, Mindy** <mindy.shim@lausd.net>

Tue, Jan 22, 2019 at 2:28 PM

Cc: "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Patron, Lizette" <lizette.patron@lausd.net>

Good afternoon,

We are happy to share the news that a tentative agreement has been reached between UTLA and L.A. Unified.

Attached is the press release with more details.

Best regards,

---

Mindy Kordash-Shim

Communications Manager

Office of Board President Mónica García

Los Angeles Unified School District

mindy.shim@lausd.net

p. 213.241.4548

c. [REDACTED]

w. [garcia.laschoolboard.org](http://garcia.laschoolboard.org)



**From:** Mindy Kordash-Shim <mindy.shim@lausd.net>

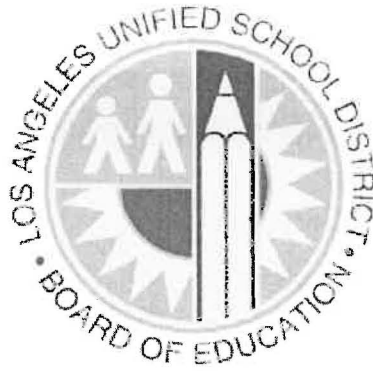
**Date:** Friday, January 18, 2019 at 5:21 PM

**Cc:** MONICA GARCIA <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, Lizette Patron <lizette.patron@lausd.net>

**Subject:** Re: Latest updates from L.A. Unified

Good evening,

Attached is the statement from the district after Day 5 of the work stoppage. Copied below is the statement on behalf of the Board of Education.



## **THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

There is no such thing as a normal day at the Los Angeles Unified School District and we rely on the heroism of our employees, and the resilience of our students, on a daily basis. The nation's second largest school system embodies the diversity, and complexity, of our city, state, and country. This week, indeed a difficult one for all of us, has brought this complexity into the national spotlight. And on behalf of a grateful Board of Education, all of whom have served as teachers, administrators, or counselors in our schools, we thank you!

Thank you to our incredibly dedicated staff who have been serving in schools under tremendously difficult circumstances. We have a legal responsibility, and moral obligation, to keep schools open when 82% of our families live in poverty and we have nearly 17,000 homeless students who rely on our schools for safety, meals, and caring adults. To our principals and administrative teams; to our classified workers serving as bus drivers, special education aides, plant managers, cafeteria workers, and in so many other critical capacities; to our school police officers keeping campuses, and those on the picket lines, safe; to our central office and local district teams who are working around the clock—to all of you, thank you for showing up for our students. Even on our lowest attendance days, we still have more students in school than almost every single district in this country. We also know that you, too, work in difficult conditions and need more support and your voices are being heard this week as well.

Thank you to our teachers, nurses, counselors, and librarians who are showing up for our community in their own way this week. They have helped open so many people's eyes to the underfunding of our public schools in this state and country and have galvanized support so we can all do better. When California is the 5th largest economy in the world, but 43rd out of 50 states in per pupil spending in education, it's time that we all call on our legislators to do better. We hear you and we all must do

better. We also know your students miss you—and that you miss them—and we hope to have you back in classrooms soon.

Thank you to our parents, guardians, and families for weathering the storms this week. You have not been in an easy position and we have seen your support for our teachers, our school communities, and public education in this city. You are invaluable partners to this District and we are stronger when your voices are as loud as they have been.

Thank you, finally, to our students. Everyone who chooses to work in public education—from your teachers on the picket line this week to your principals holding down the fort to our building and grounds workers ensuring campuses are safe and welcoming—does so because of you. Because you have limitless potential and in a just society you all should be able to realize it, no matter your zip code or family circumstance. We all believe in you. And we're all counting on you. When you graduate—all 100% of you—you will inherit a city and state that needs to invest more in its young people. You will do better than we all have thus far.

As we head into this long weekend, we think of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s reminder that, "Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle." We have all struggled this week. But we do so, all in our own ways, to ensure the promise of this nation and of this district is fulfilled: that all children will have access to a quality education that prepares them to thrive well beyond their years with L.A. Unified. Together, we are confident we can make real on that promise.

Thank you all for your service.

-----

Best regards,

--

Mindy Kordash-Shim on behalf of Mónica García

Communications Manager

Office of Board President Mónica García

Los Angeles Unified School District

[mindy.shim@lausd.net](mailto:mindy.shim@lausd.net)

p. 213.241.4548

c. 

w. [garcia.laschoolboard.org](http://garcia.laschoolboard.org)



**From:** Mindy Kordash-Shim <mindy.shim@lausd.net>  
**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 6:10 PM  
**Cc:** MONICA GARCIA <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, Lizette Patron <lizette.patron@lausd.net>  
**Subject:** Re: Latest updates from L.A. Unified

Good evening,

Below is the most recent statement from the District:

---

Today, for the first time since last Friday, we met with UTLA as they have returned to contract negotiations.

We are back in contract negotiations and thank Mayor Garcetti for arranging these discussions. We need to resolve this as soon as possible to get our kids back in school and educators back in the classroom.

Since this strike has started, Los Angeles Unified has lost about \$100 million in funding which should have been invested in the classroom. Our students are missing out on the opportunity to learn. Families count on us to keep their children safe and cared for, so they can continue to work to provide for their families. We need to end this strike now.

Public education is the ultimate labor-management collaboration. We invest every dollar we receive from the state in people in schools who do the work. And those who do the work need to have a stronger voice in how the work is done.

This is an historic moment in Los Angeles as many more people are engaged in the conversation about the importance of public education. We need smaller class sizes, more support for our students and educators, including more nurses, counselors and librarians in our schools. We hope this passion and commitment our community is expressing will continue as we work together for more funding in Sacramento, where 90% of our funding comes from.

Thank you for all that you do for our community.

Best regards,

--

Mindy Kordash-Shim on behalf of President Mónica García

Communications Manager

Office of Board President Mónica García

Los Angeles Unified School District

mindy.shim@lausd.net

p. 213.241.4548

c. [REDACTED]

w. [garcia.laschoolboard.org](http://garcia.laschoolboard.org)



**From:** Mindy Kordash-Shim <mindy.shim@lausd.net>  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 2:02 PM  
**Cc:** MONICA GARCIA <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, Lizette Patron <lizette.patron@lausd.net>  
**Subject:** Latest updates from L.A. Unified

Dear Leaders,

Here are the latest updates from Los Angeles Unified School District. Thank you for staying informed as we work to resolve the work stoppage and labor negotiations.

***1/13/2019: Los Angeles Unified Schools Open Providing Safe and Welcoming Learning Environment***

Los Angeles Unified schools will be open providing every student with a safe and welcoming learning environment. Elementary, middle and high schools will be open, instruction will continue, and meals will be served tomorrow and throughout the UTLA strike. Early education centers will only be open to special-needs students and state preschool sites will be closed.

Los Angeles Unified has set up a Family Hotline for parents and families offering information about schools. Parents and families are encouraged to call the Hotline at (213) 443-1300 with any questions. Updates about labor negotiations are available at LAUSD.net.

Los Angeles Unified did not want a strike and offered UTLA leaders a \$565 million package to significantly reduce class sizes, add nearly 1,200 educators in schools, and provide all UTLA members with 6% salary raises.

Los Angeles Unified remains committed to contract negotiations and will continue to work around the clock to find solutions to end the strike which will hurt students, families and communities most in need throughout Los Angeles.

***Information on Attendance During Strike***

- We know these are challenging times in our schools and our top priority remains the safety of students, parents, educators and employees.

We are grateful to the thousands of Los Angeles Unified employees who kept our schools open and provided students with a secure and warm classroom and a meal.

We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that Los Angeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults.

While state law does not excuse absences in case of a strike and students are expected to attend class, principals will work with students and families on attendance.

At the moment, schools will not be notifying parents of absences, but will continue to monitor student attendance and provide support to students on an individual basis. Student absences during the strike will not impact graduation.

***Numerous voices across the community and from all walks of life have raised serious concerns about the education of students in the event of a strike and have encouraged Los Angeles Unified and UTLA to continue working together to find a solution.***

***Los Angeles African American Clergy Call on Alex Caputo-Pearl to Return to Negotiations (1/16/2019)***

Today, African American clergy throughout Los Angeles called on Alex Caputo-Pearl and United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) to return to contract negotiations with the Los Angeles Unified School District and put an end to the strike. The over two-dozen leaders sent a letter to Alex Caputo-Pearl, President, UTLA, strongly encouraging the teachers union to return to negotiations and put the focus back on the well-being of the students.

"We are compelled to share our perspective given that as you and others exercise your right to strike, the fortunes of African American children do not improve on a picket line."

"Your organization must continue to negotiate around the clock with our children and their well-being as a focus."

Read full letter

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families. I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty.

"Last week, I submitted a budget to the Legislature that would make the largest ever investment in K through 12 education, help pay down billions in school district pension debt and provide substantial new funding for special education and early education.

"The budget also makes substantial additional investments in counties and providers by supporting children experiencing mental illness and investing in homelessness services — all of which can translate into additional services and support for children served by LAUSD." - **Governor Gavin Newsom (1/14/2019) Full Statement**

"We urge the teachers union and the school district to reach an agreement and avert a strike-and to put their collective efforts toward securing resources for our teachers and students without devastating the finances of the District." - **Leading Los Angeles foundations, nonprofits, education, civic, business and religious groups (1/13/2019) Read the full statement**

Best regards,

--

Mindy Kordash-Shim on behalf of President Mónica García

Communications Manager

Office of Board President Mónica García

Los Angeles Unified School District

mindy.shim@lausd.net

p. 213.241.4548

c. [REDACTED]

w. [garcia.laschoolboard.org](http://garcia.laschoolboard.org)



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 **NR\_Los Angeles Unified School District Agreement with UTLA\_012219.pdf**  
150K





Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

---

## Re: Latest updates from L.A. Unified

1 message

**Shim, Mindy** <mindy.shim@lausd.net>

Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 2:16 PM

Cc: "Patron, Lizette" <lizette.patron@lausd.net>, "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>

Good afternoon!

We are happy to share that the Board of Education has unanimously approved UTLA's labor contract. L.A. Unified has now reached an agreement with all labor bargaining units.

The Superintendent and his team is in Sacramento today to continue to work with our state partners to increase investment in education.

The District has also passed a resolution to ask state leaders to study the impact of charter schools and to temporarily pause the approval of new charter schools during the period of the study.

Attached are the official statements from the District.

Thank you all for your continued attention to the schools, staff, students and families of Los Angeles.

Best regards,

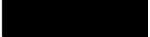
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Mindy Kordash-Shim on behalf of President Mónica García

Los Angeles Unified School District

mindy.shim@lausd.net

p. 213.241.4548

c. 

w. [garcia.laschoolboard.org](http://garcia.laschoolboard.org)



**From:** Mindy Kordash-Shim <mindy.shim@lausd.net>

**Date:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 2:28 PM

**Cc:** MONICA GARCIA <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, Lizette Patron <lizette.patron@lausd.net>

**Subject:** Re: Latest updates from L.A. Unified

Good afternoon,

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Attached is the press release with more details.

Best regards,

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Mindy Kordash-Shim

Communications Manager

Office of Board President Mónica García

Los Angeles Unified School District

[mindy.shim@lausd.net](mailto:mindy.shim@lausd.net)

p. 213.241.4548

c. [REDACTED]

w. [garcia.laschoolboard.org](http://garcia.laschoolboard.org)



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**From:** Mindy Kordash-Shim <[mindy.shim@lausd.net](mailto:mindy.shim@lausd.net)>

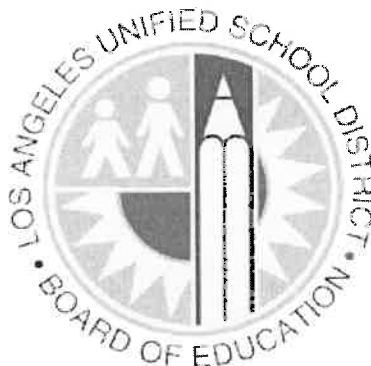
**Date:** Friday, January 18, 2019 at 5:21 PM

**Cc:** MONICA GARCIA <[monica.garcia@lausd.net](mailto:monica.garcia@lausd.net)>, Lizette Patron <[lizette.patron@lausd.net](mailto:lizette.patron@lausd.net)>

**Subject:** Re: Latest updates from L.A. Unified

Good evening,

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Thank you to our incredibly dedicated staff who have been serving in schools under tremendously difficult circumstances. We have a legal responsibility, and moral obligation, to keep schools open when 82% of our families live in poverty and we have nearly 17,000 homeless students who rely on our schools for safety, meals, and caring adults. To our principals and administrative teams; to our classified workers serving as bus drivers, special education aides, plant managers, cafeteria workers, and in so many other critical capacities; to our school police officers keeping campuses, and those on the picket lines, safe; to our central office and local district teams who are working around the clock—to all of you, thank you for showing up for our students. Even on our lowest attendance days, we still have more students in school than almost every single district in this country. We also know that you, too, work in difficult conditions and need more support and your voices are being heard this week as well.

Thank you to our teachers, nurses, counselors, and librarians who are showing up for our community in their own way this week. They have helped open so many people's eyes to the underfunding of our public schools in this state and country and have galvanized support so we can all do better. When California is the 5th largest economy in the world, but 43rd out of 50 states in per pupil spending in education, it's time that we all call on our legislators to do better. We hear you and we all must do better. We also know your students miss you—and that you miss them—and we hope to have you back in classrooms soon.

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Thank you all for your service.

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Best regards,

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Mindy Kordash-Shim on behalf of Mónica García

Communications Manager

Office of Board President Mónica García

Los Angeles Unified School District

[mindy.shim@lausd.net](mailto:mindy.shim@lausd.net)

p. 213.241.4548

c. 

w. [garcia.laschoolboard.org](http://garcia.laschoolboard.org)



**From:** Mindy Kordash-Shim <[mindy.shim@lausd.net](mailto:mindy.shim@lausd.net)>

**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 6:10 PM

**Cc:** MONICA GARCIA <[monica.garcia@lausd.net](mailto:monica.garcia@lausd.net)>, Lizette Patron <[lizette.patron@lausd.net](mailto:lizette.patron@lausd.net)>

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Mindy Kordash-Shim on behalf of President Mónica García

Communications Manager

Office of Board President Mónica García

Los Angeles Unified School District

[mindy.shim@lausd.net](mailto:mindy.shim@lausd.net)

p. 213.241.4548

c. 

w. [garcia.laschoolboard.org](http://garcia.laschoolboard.org)



**From:** Mindy Kordash-Shim <mindy.shim@lausd.net>  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 2:02 PM  
**Cc:** MONICA GARCIA <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, Lizette Patron <lizette.patron@lausd.net>  
**Subject:** Latest updates from L.A. Unified

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We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that Los Angeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults.

While state law does not excuse absences in case of a strike and students are expected to attend class, principals will work with students and families on attendance.

At the moment, schools will not be notifying parents of absences, but will continue to monitor student attendance and provide support to students on an individual basis. Student absences during the strike will not impact graduation.

***Numerous voices across the community and from all walks of life have raised serious concerns about the education of students in the event of a strike and have encouraged Los Angeles Unified and UTLA to continue working together to find a solution.***

***Los Angeles African American Clergy Call on Alex Caputo-Pearl to Return to Negotiations (1/16/2019)***

Today, African American clergy throughout Los Angeles called on Alex Caputo-Pearl and United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) to return to contract negotiations with the Los Angeles Unified School District and put an end to the strike. The over two-dozen leaders sent a letter to Alex Caputo-Pearl, President, UTLA, strongly encouraging the teachers union to return to negotiations and put the focus back on the well-being of the students.

"We are compelled to share our perspective given that as you and others exercise your right to strike, the fortunes of African American children do not improve on a picket line."

"Your organization must continue to negotiate around the clock with our children and their well-being as a focus."

[Read full letter](#)

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families. I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty.

"Last week, I submitted a budget to the Legislature that would make the largest ever investment in K through 12 education, help pay down billions in school district pension debt and provide substantial new funding for special education and early education.

"The budget also makes substantial additional investments in counties and providers by supporting children experiencing mental illness and investing in homelessness services — all of which can translate into additional services and support for children served by LAUSD." -

**Governor Gavin Newsom** (1/14/2019) [Full Statement](#)

"We urge the teachers union and the school district to reach an agreement and avert a strike-and to put their collective efforts toward securing resources for our teachers and students without devastating the finances of the District." - **Leading Los Angeles foundations, nonprofits, education, civic, business and religious groups** (1/13/2019) [Read the full statement](#)

Best regards,

--

Mindy Kordash-Shim on behalf of President Mónica García

Communications Manager

Office of Board President Mónica García

Los Angeles Unified School District

[mindy.shim@lausd.net](mailto:mindy.shim@lausd.net)

p. 213.241.4548

c. [REDACTED]

w. [garcia.laschoolboard.org](http://garcia.laschoolboard.org)



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### 3 attachments

 **NR LA Unified Release UTLA Contract Approval 012919.pdf**  
153K

 **MA Los Angeles Unified Leadership to Meet State Leaders in Sacramento 012919.pdf**  
122K

 **NR Board of Education Seeks Charter Study 012919.pdf**  
132K



Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

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## Latest updates from L.A. Unified Board President Mónica García

1 message

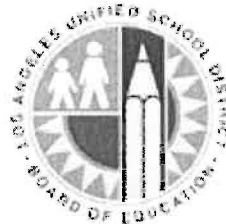
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**García, Mónica (Board Member)** <monica.garcia@lausd.net>

Thu, Jan 10, 2019 at 12:43 PM

To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Cc: "ana.guerrero@lacity.org" <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>, "lisa.salazar@lacity.org" <lisa.salazar@lacity.org>



***Los Angeles Unified School  
District***

***Board of Education***

**Mónica García**

***President***

January 10, 2019

Dear Mayor Eric Garcetti,

Happy New Year to you and your team! Our first order of business in L.A. Unified is to resolve our labor negotiations with our teacher's union.

I want to share the latest offer, our resource guide for parents as well as recent statements from the District. Should we experience a strike, we would like to keep you posted. Please feel free to share the appropriate staff member to whom we can email further updates.



Thank you for all you do for our community. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, comments or concerns and share any advice you may have.

It is my deepest desire to report back to you that we have found a path towards resolution & more graduations.

In the spirit of hope,

Mónica García

Read more about the Labor Updates and Community Voices [here](#).

Board District 2 | Website

Phone: (213) 241-6180

Email: [monica.garcia@lausd.net](mailto:monica.garcia@lausd.net)



Labor Updates

We hear our teachers and want to work with them. Los Angeles Unified and teachers agree—smaller class sizes, more teachers, counselors, nurses and librarians in schools would make our schools better. We know teachers deserve to be paid more and a working environment where kids can have the best possible education.

We are committed to providing teachers with the best offer and as much support as we can, given L.A. Unified's resources.

**Our offer goes further than the recommendations made by the state appointed, independent, Fact Finder. It includes:**

- A 6 percent raise with no additional work requirements or professional development to receive the raise.
- Back pay for the 2017-2018 school year.
- No changes to health benefits for current employees.
- A \$100 million investment to add nearly 1,000 additional teachers, nurses, counselors and librarians in 2019-20, and reduce class sizes for schools most in need, English and math classes.
- Create a working group on charters to address co-location issues and provide rigorous oversight of all schools.
- Eliminate Section 1.5 (class size language) and replace with a provision to allow Los Angeles Unified to keep class size as low as possible and remain solvent.

**Read more about Los Angeles Unified's offer and the Status of Contract Negotiations.**

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## Community Updates

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**Numerous voices across the community and from all walks of life have raised serious concerns about the education of students in the event of a strike and have encouraged Los Angeles Unified and UTLA to continue working together to find a solution.**

*"The bigger question, though, is what the union's goal is, and why it was so eager to set a strike date before sitting down with the fact-finder's report and trying to hammer*

*out a reasonable bargain. The district has nothing to gain from a strike; parents fear it, and a walkout of even a couple of weeks could be devastating to students.”*

**Editorial Board**, Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles Times

*“Let’s never forget the impact of a potential strike on Los Angeles’ most vulnerable students. Students who live in poverty and who are already behind will spend days or weeks not learning in the classroom.”*

**Arne Duncan**, former Secretary of Education for President Barack Obama  
The Hill

*“As UTLA continues to march relentlessly toward a strike, I know the issues are real. I’ve lived them. But the only path to solve them is to collaborate. A strike will not solve anything. UTLA should allow its members to vote again on such an important decision as they did in 1989. And they should make sure its members have all the facts of what LA Unified is offering.”*

**Dr. Roberta Benjamin Edwards**, former teacher and retired administrator at Los Angeles Unified  
LA School Report

*“What’s the best course of action? Well, a state-appointed factfinding panel evaluated the union and the district’s contract proposals. It also evaluated the school districts books. Its recommendation: The teachers union should accept the district’s offer of a 6 percent pay raise. I strongly agree.”*

**Areva Martin**, Esq., President and Co-Founder of Special Needs Network  
Los Angeles Sentinel

*“As we get closer to the possibility of a strike by the teachers of the L.A. Unified School District, I want to speak up on behalf of these working families and immigrant families — because they will feel it acutely if teachers walk out.”*

**Gloria Molina**, former Los Angeles County Supervisor  
Los Angeles Times

**Additional Community Voices can be found [here](#).**

News

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**NEUTRAL FACT FINDER RECOMMENDS 6% RAISE, ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE**

In November, the state of California appointed an independent, neutral Fact Finder to help resolve contract issues. His recent report confirmed that a 6% raise is reasonable. UTLA leadership's own appointee to the Fact Finding Panel agreed, stating in December, "I concur with Chair Weinberg's recommendation regarding the District's salary proposal with respect to the compensation increase of 3% for 2017- 2018 and 3% for 2018-2019."

## **CALIFORNIA REGULATOR ISSUE COMPLAINT AGAINST UTLA FOR REFUSING TO BARGAIN IN GOOD FAITH**

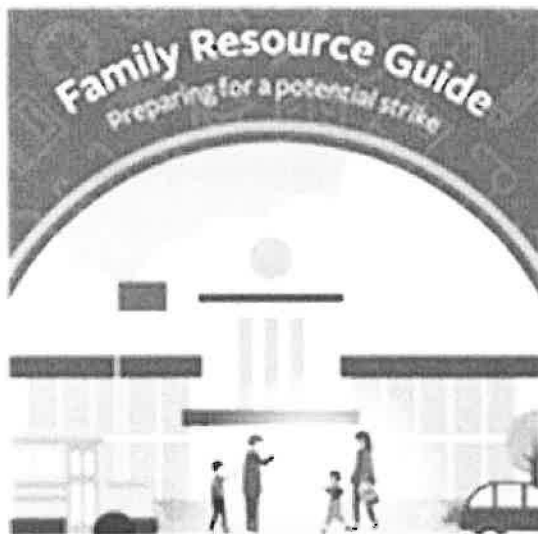
The State of California Public Employment Relations Board issued a complaint against United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) for refusing to bargain in good faith. In the report, the state board said that UTLA has declined to meet and negotiate for more than a year and that several of its contract demands are unlawful.

### **For Families**

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This Los Angeles Unified Family Resource Guide provides information to help families and communities prepare for a potential strike.

Los Angeles Unified is doing everything possible to ensure every student has access to a safe, clean and supportive learning environment.



This Los Angeles Unified Family Resource Guide provides information to help families and communities prepare for a potential strike. L.A. Unified is doing everything possible to ensure every student has access to a safe, clean and supportive learning environment.

**Family Resource Guide**

**Guía de Recursos para las Familias**

**패밀리 자원 안내서**

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## Download Media Kit (01-04-19)

## Additional Resources

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- LAUSD Package Proposal to UTLA (01-07-19)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Deputy Superintendent <DeputySuperintendent@lausd.net>

To: "LAUSD-EMPLOYEES@LIST.LAUSD.NET" <LAUSD-EMPLOYEES@list.lausd.net>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Tue, 8 Jan 2019 18:16:09 -0800

Subject: Labor Update

Dear Employees,

Yesterday, Los Angeles Unified offered to add 1,000 additional educators - teachers, counselors, nurses and librarians - and nearly triple funding to reduce class sizes. This increased investment of \$105 million dollars to better serve the needs of students was rejected by UTLA. The change UTLA made to their offer was to withdraw items outside the scope of bargaining.

The new proposal consisted of the following:

-

### **I. Additional Funding to Reduce Class Size and Hire 1,000 More Educators**

- 2.5x increase in funds to reduce class sizes and hire more counselors, nurses and librarians, from \$30 million to \$105 million. The increased funding would have provided almost 1,000 additional educators.
- With those additional staff members, Los Angeles Unified would have been able to:
  - Reduce all secondary math and English language classes to below 40 students
  - Add one additional academic counselor at each comprehensive high school
  - Double nursing services at every middle school

- Provide library services at every middle school
- Reduce class sizes to 32 students at 75 and 15 of the highest need elementary and middle schools, respectively
- Lower class sizes by 2 in all high schools
- Ensure that no class sizes in grades 4-6 exceed 35 students

## **II. Salary and Benefits**

- A 6% raise with no contingencies
- No additional work requirements or professional development to receive the raise
- Back pay for the 2017-2018 school year
- No changes to health benefits for current employees

## **III. Charters**

- While charter schools are governed by state law and are not a bargainable issue, which UTLA has also conceded, Los Angeles Unified has proposed to create a Working Group with UTLA to address issues and provide recommendations to:
  - Address co-location issues
  - Provide rigorous oversight of all schools, including charter and traditional
  - Long-term space planning

Both sides will return to the bargaining table on Wednesday, January 9.

To remain up to date on labor negotiations, please visit the District's labor update webpage located [here](#).

Sincerely,

Vivian Ekchian

Deputy Superintendent

Los Angeles Unified School District

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## **6 attachments**



**Board of Education Remains Committed to Averting a Strike[3].pdf**

23K

 **noname.eml**  
25K

 **MIPR\_LAUSD\_FamilyResourceGuide\_Spanish\_10\_12\_18.indd[1].pdf**  
2978K

 **MIPR\_LAUSD\_FamilyResourceGuide\_10\_12\_18.indd[1].pdf**  
3283K

 **LAUSD Media Kit - Jan 2 2019r1[2].pdf**  
1622K

 **01-09-19-NS-LACOE-FiscalExperts-Attachments.pdf**  
4163K

**Los Angeles Unified School District**  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
333 S. Beaudry Ave., 24th floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Phone: (213) 241-6766  
FAX: (213) 241-8952  
www.lausd.net



# News Statement

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

**Shannon Haber, 213-241-6766**

**January 8, 2018**

**#18/19-106**

## **Board of Education Remains Committed to Averting a Strike**

The Board of Education today reiterated its commitment to averting a strike and reaching a fair agreement with United Teachers Los Angeles. Los Angeles Unified has made a constructive offer to UTLA and will continue to work to reach a resolution.

We are committed to keeping kids safe and learning in schools. We recognize that Los Angeles Unified needs more resources, and our resolution today confirms our commitment to work with families, labor partners and the communities we serve to achieve this.

**###**



# Subject: Labor Update

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**Deputy Superintendent** <DeputySuperintendent@lausd.net>  
to LAUSD-EMPLOYEES@LIST.LAUSD.NET

You are viewing an attached message City of Los Angeles Mail can't verify the authenticity of attached

Dear Employees,

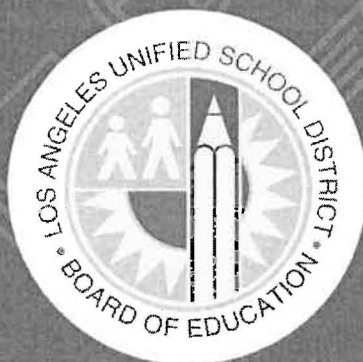
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The new proposal consisted of the following:

-

## **I. Additional Funding to Reduce Class Size and Hire 1,000 More Educators**

- 2.5x increase in funds to reduce class sizes and hire more counselors, nurses and librarians, from \$30
- With those additional staff members, Los Angeles Unified would have been able to:
  - Reduce all secondary math and English language classes to below 40 students
  - Add one additional academic counselor at each comprehensive high school
  - Double nursing services at every middle school
  - Provide library services at every middle school
  - Reduce class sizes to 32 students at 75 and 15 of the highest need elementary and middle school
  - Lower class sizes by 2 in all high schools
  - Ensure that no class sizes in grades 4-6 exceed 35 students



# Guía de Recursos para las Familias

preparándonos para una posible huelga



Distrito Unificado de Los Ángeles

# Carta del Superintendente y la Junta de Educación

Queridas Familias del Distrito Unificado de L.A.

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de L.A. (L.A. Unified) quiere que cada escuela sea un gran lugar de enseñanza y aprendizaje. Cada día trabajamos para asegurarnos de que todos los estudiantes tengan acceso a ambientes de aprendizaje que los apoyen. Esta misión es nuestro principal enfoque y seguirá siéndolo aún en el caso de una probable huelga.

Esperamos que esta Guía de Recursos para las Familias responda las preguntas que puedan tener y ofrezca la información que necesiten para ayudar a sus niños a avanzar en los estudios en el caso de una huelga. Los invitamos a que se comuniquen con el director/a de su escuela o que visiten [www.LAUSD.net](http://www.LAUSD.net) para más información.

El Distrito Unificado de L.A. sigue comprometido en alcanzar un acuerdo para un contrato justo que valore a nuestros empleados cuales trabajan duro, y que ponga a nuestros niños y a nuestras familias primero.

Trabajando juntos, podemos ayudar a nuestros estudiantes a lograr grandes cosas.

Gracias,

**Austin Beutner,**  
*Superintendente*

**Mónica García,**  
*Presidenta de la Junta,*  
*Distrito 2 de la Junta*

**Nick Melvoin,**  
*Vicepresidente de la Junta,*  
*Distrito 4 de la Junta*

**Dr. George J. McKenna III,**  
*Distrito 1 de la Junta*

**Scott M. Schmerelson,**  
*Distrito 3 de la Junta*

**Kelly Gonez,**  
*Distrito 6 de la Junta*

**Dr. Richard Vladovic,**  
*Distrito 7 de la Junta*

# Resumen

Esta Guía de Recursos para las Familias del Distrito Unificado de Los Ángeles ofrece información para ayudar a las familias y a las comunidades a prepararse para una posible huelga. El Distrito Unificado está haciendo todo lo posible para garantizar que cada estudiante tenga acceso a un ambiente de aprendizaje que sea seguro, limpio y de apoyo.

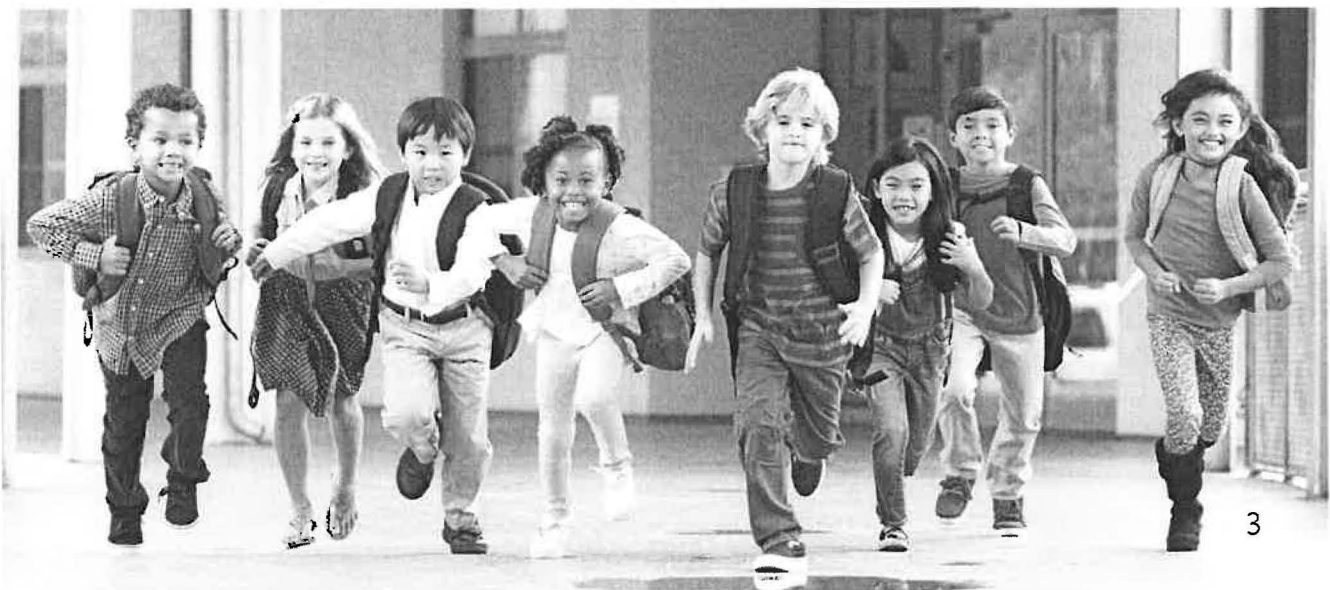
Las negociaciones contractuales entre el Distrito Unificado de L.A. y el Sindicato de Maestros de Los Ángeles (UTLA por sus siglas en inglés) continúan. El Distrito Unificado de L.A. está comprometido en alcanzar un acuerdo justo que valore a nuestros trabajadores que tanto se esfuerzan y que coloque a nuestros niños y familias primero.

El 27 de septiembre de 2018, El Consejo de Relaciones de Empleados del Sector Público de California (PERB por sus siglas en inglés) comenzó a arbitrar estas negociaciones de contrato con la meta de encontrar una resolución y prevenir una interrupción a nuestras escuelas. El PERB es una agencia estatal que supervisa las leyes de negociación colectiva y ayuda a resolver disputas.

## En esta guía encontrará lo siguiente:

- Preguntas frecuentes que tienen que ver con la asistencia de los estudiantes, horarios escolares y la comida en la escuela.
- Cómo prepararse para una huelga teniendo un plan que incluya mantenerse informado, poner su información al día y participación como voluntario/a en su escuela.
- Cómo hablar sobre una huelga con su hijo/a.
- Información de contacto para su escuela y otras oficinas del Distrito Unificado de L.A.

El Distrito Unificado de Los Ángeles se mantiene enfocado en mantener nuestras escuelas abiertas y en brindar a los estudiantes programas de instrucción.



# Preguntas Frecuentes



## **¿Qué es una huelga?**

Cuando los empleadores y los empleados no logran alcanzar un acuerdo durante las negociaciones contractuales, los empleados pueden parar de trabajar o hacer una huelga, como un medio de protesta.



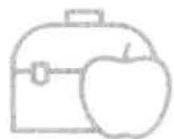
## **¿Los estudiantes deben asistir a la escuela si hay una huelga?**

Sí. Se espera que los estudiantes asistan a clases todos los días. Las escuelas estarán abiertas y los estudiantes participarán en programas de instrucción.



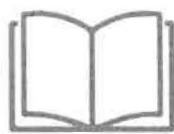
## **¿Cambiarán los horarios de la escuela?**

No. Los horarios de la escuela, los programas de la mañana y los de después de clases y las comidas NO cambiarán. Se respetará el horario escolar regular. En el poco probable caso de que exista algún cambio en los horarios, se les notificará de inmediato.



## **¿Las escuelas continuarán sirviendo comidas?**

Sí. El servicio de comidas no cambiará y cada escuela continuará ofreciendo comidas de manera normal.



## **¿Los estudiantes continuarán aprendiendo durante una huelga?**

Sí. La instrucción será proveída por personal calificado del Distrito Unificado de L.A., el cuál incluye personal certificado y clasificado, empleados sustitutos calificados y administradores reasignados.



## **¿Es seguro mandar a mis hijos a la escuela?**

Sí. El Personal supervisará cada escuela para garantizar la seguridad de los estudiantes en todo momento.



## **¿Cómo puedo ayudar?**

Puedes ser voluntario en tu escuela para ayudar en el salón, en el patio de recreo o en las áreas comunes. Para más información, comuníquese con su director(a) o visite: <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page9647>.



### **Amamos a nuestros maestros. ¿Por qué el Distrito Unificado de L.A. y UTLA no pueden alcanzar un acuerdo?**

Todos valoramos y apreciamos a nuestros maestros, pero también queremos asegurarnos de que el acuerdo para el contrato se alcanzará a través del mutuo entendimiento sobre lo que es mejor para los estudiantes. Esto significa que tenemos que proteger la salud financiera del Distrito Unificado de L.A., para que podamos dar a nuestras escuelas los recursos necesarios para preparar a todos los estudiantes para que se gradúen de la universidad y para que estén listos para una carrera.



### **El costo de la vida es alto en California. ¿Porqué no puede el Distrito Unificado de L.A. ofrecerle salarios más altos a los maestros?**

En junio de 2018, la Junta Escolar del Distrito Unificado de L.A. aprobó un incremento del 6% al salario para todos los empleados, incluyendo a los maestros. Además, los maestros recibieron un incremento al salario del 10%, en incrementos, para los años 2014-17. Esto sería un incremento del 16% desde el 2014. El Distrito Unificado de L.A. ofrece salarios competitivos para los maestros comparado con otros distritos grandes en el Estado de California, y aunque nos gustaría ofrecerles más a los maestros, debemos operar dentro de nuestras responsabilidades financieras. El salario promedio de un maestro en el Distrito Unificado de L.A. es de \$75,000 y la compensación total promedio, que incluye cobertura de cuidado de la salud total para ellos y sus dependientes, es de \$110,000.



### **¿Cómo podemos incrementar los fondos para el Distrito Unificado de L.A.?**

La legislatura del estado de California controla el financiamiento para la educación. El Distrito Unificado de L.A. obtiene alrededor del 90% de su financiamiento de Sacramento. La cantidad actual de \$16,000 por estudiante, simplemente no es suficiente. El Distrito Unificado de L.A. y todos los sindicatos que representan a los trabajadores del distrito, los estudiantes, las familias y las comunidades, necesitan trabajar juntos para incrementar el financiamiento a la educación pública. El camino hacia adelante comienza en Sacramento.



### **¿Ha alcanzado el Distrito Unificado de L.A. acuerdos con otros sindicatos de trabajadores?**

Sí. El Distrito ha alcanzado acuerdos con otros sindicatos de trabajadores que suman aproximadamente a el 65% de la fuerza laboral del Distrito y espera hacer lo mismo con UTLA.



# Cómo prepararse para una Huelga



## **Hablé con sus Hijos**

En el caso de una huelga, hable con sus hijos de manera regular. Esta experiencia puede ser confusa para ellos.



## **Ponga su Información al Día**

Asegúrese de que la información en su Tarjeta de Emergencia del Distrito Unificado de L.A. esté al día, para que su escuela pueda notificarle sobre cualquier cambio. Su escuela necesitará que números telefónicos, correos electrónicos y las direcciones de sus hogares estén al día.

Asegúrese de que su escuela tenga una lista al día de las medicinas de sus hijos. Desarrolle un plan de acción con el administrador de su escuela para poder dar las medicinas, particularmente las inyecciones de emergencia como Epipens y Glucagon, para estar seguros de que todas las necesidades de cuidado de la salud sean atendidas.



## **Horarios y Actividades Escolares**

Los horarios de la escuela, los programas de la mañana y de después de clases y las comidas NO cambiarán. Se respetará el programa escolar normal. En el poco probable caso de que surja algún cambio en el programa, se les avisará de inmediato. También pueden consultar la pagina de internet de su escuela para ver si hay cambios.

# elga: *Tenga un Plan*



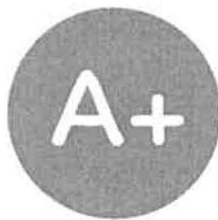
## **Uso de Teléfonos Celulares**

La política del Distrito Unificado de L.A. sobre teléfonos celulares, continuará siendo la misma.



## **Manténgase Informado**

Su escuela ofrecerá información de manera continua. También puede mantenerse informado a través de información al día que se dará por correo de voz, correo electrónico, mensajes de texto y medios sociales. Visite [www.lausd.net](http://www.lausd.net) para más información y actualizaciones.



## **Calificaciones y Tareas**

Asegúrese de revisar las calificaciones y tareas a través del Portal para Padres de Familia. Visite: <https://passportapp.lausd.net/parentaccess/>.



## **Involúcrese**

Puede ser voluntario/a en su escuela para ayudar en el salón, en el patio de recreo o en las áreas comunes. Para más información, comuníquese con el director(a) o visite: <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page9647>.



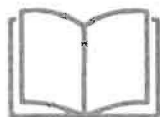
# ¿Cómo hablar sobre una huelga con sus hijos?

**En el caso de una huelga, los niños pueden confundirse. Recomendamos que hable con sus hijos regularmente para preguntarles si hay algo que les inquiete. Aquí hay algunos consejos que le ayudarán a comunicarse con sus hijos de acuerdo a su nivel de edad.**



## Asegúreles a sus hijos.

Explíqueles que la huelga es temporal, y que las personas volverán a trabajar.



## Manténgase enfocado en el trabajo escolar.

Pídales a sus hijos que se mantengan enfocados en sus estudios.



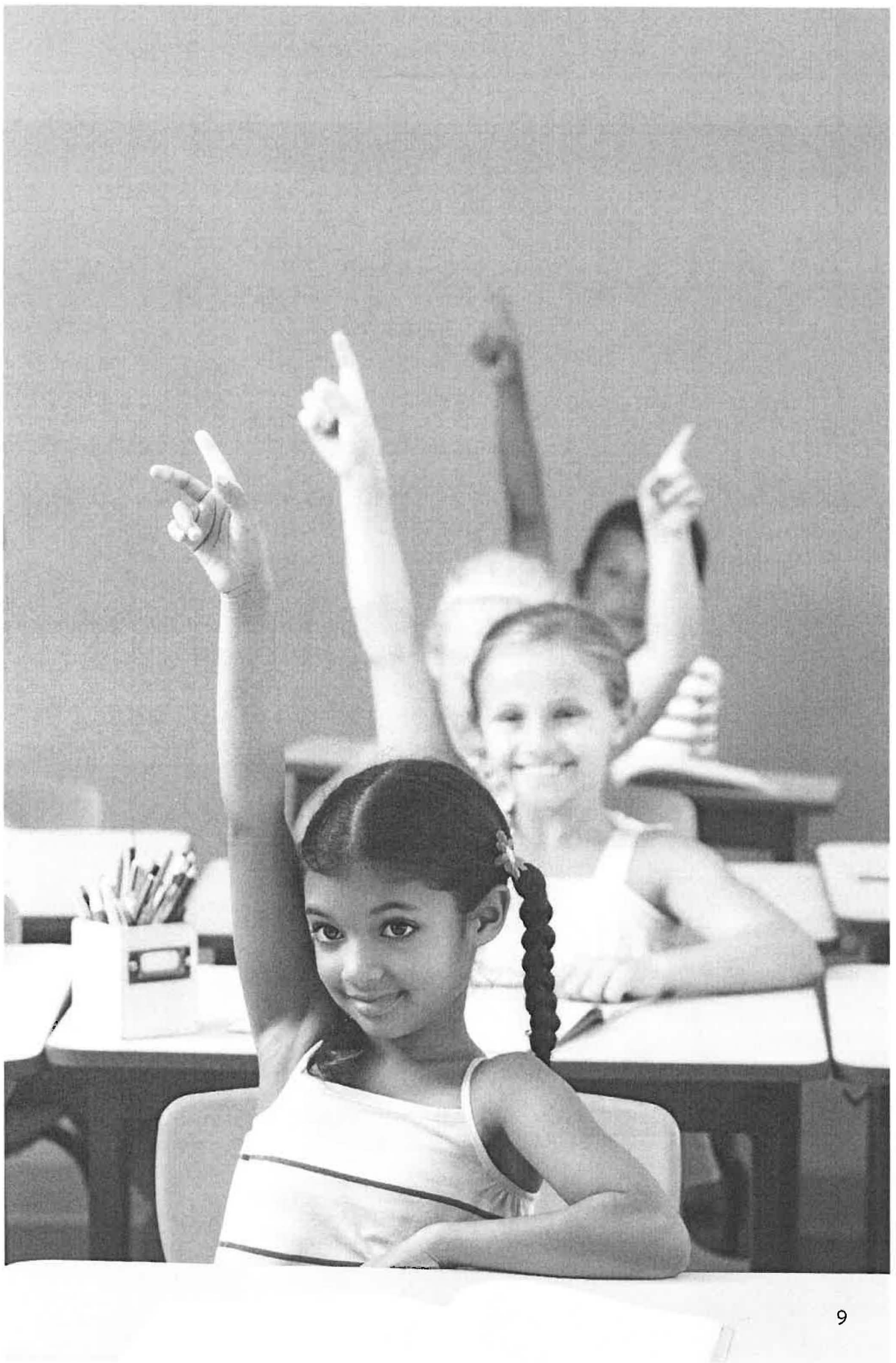
## Para niños en grados K-5.

Esta situación puede ser utilizada como un momento de aprendizaje. Puede decirle a sus hijos que algunas veces los adultos no están de acuerdo así es que necesitan juntarse, hablar las cosas y trabajar juntos para encontrar soluciones. Las conversaciones sobre una huelga deberían ser personalizadas de acuerdo a la edad del niño/a. Asegúreles a sus hijos que ellos no han hecho nada malo.



## Para niños en grados 6-12.

Esta situación puede ser utilizada como un momento de aprendizaje. A los niños mayores se les puede ofrecer más información e invitarlos a una conversación sobre el tema. Explíqueles que hay dos lados: UTLA y el distrito escolar y que ambos están tratando de llegar a un acuerdo que sea justo para todos.



# Para más información póngase en Unificado de Los Ángeles.

## LLAME A SU ESCUELA

Comience por contactar a su escuela. Para la información de contacto de su escuela, por favor visite: [schooldirectory.lausd.net/schooldirectory](http://schooldirectory.lausd.net/schooldirectory).

## SUPERINTENDENTES LOCALES DE DISTRITO

### **Distrito Local Noreste**

Linda Del Cueto  
linda.delcueto@lausd.net | (818) 252-5400  
8401 Arleta Ave., Sun Valley, Ca 91352

### **Distrito Local Noroeste**

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Síguenos en:

 : @LosAngelesSchools

 : @LASchools

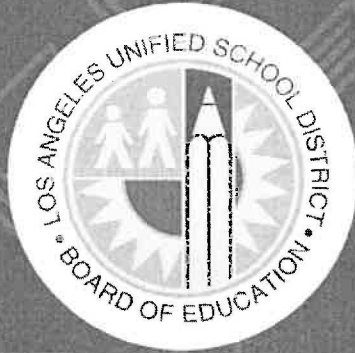
 : @LASchools

**INFORMACIÓN AL DÍA SOBRE NEGOCIACIONES LABORALES:**

<https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/15078>







# Family Resource Guide

preparing for a potential strike



Los Angeles Unified

# Letter from the Superintendent and Board of Education

Dear L.A. Unified Families,

The Los Angeles Unified School District (L.A. Unified) wants every school to be a place of great teaching and learning. Every day, we work to ensure all students have access to safe and supportive learning environments. This mission is our central focus, and will remain our central focus even in the case of a potential strike.

We hope this **Los Angeles Unified Family Resource Guide** answers the questions you may have and offers the information you need to help your children thrive in school in the event of a strike. We encourage you to reach out to your school principal or visit [www.LAUSD.net](http://www.LAUSD.net) for more information.

L.A. Unified remains committed to reaching an agreement on a fair contract that both values our hardworking employees and puts our kids and families first. Working together, we can all help our students achieve great things.

Thank you,

**Austin Beutner,**  
*Superintendent*

**Mónica García,**  
*Board President,*  
*Board District 2*

**Nick Melvoin,**  
*Board Vice President,*  
*Board District 4*

**Dr. George J. McKenna III,**  
*Board District 1*

**Scott M. Schmerelson,**  
*Board District 3*

**Kelly Gonez,**  
*Board District 6*

**Dr. Richard Vladovic,**  
*Board District 7*

# Overview

This **Los Angeles Unified Family Resource Guide** provides information to help families and communities prepare for a potential strike. L.A. Unified is doing everything possible to ensure every student has access to a safe, clean and supportive learning environment.

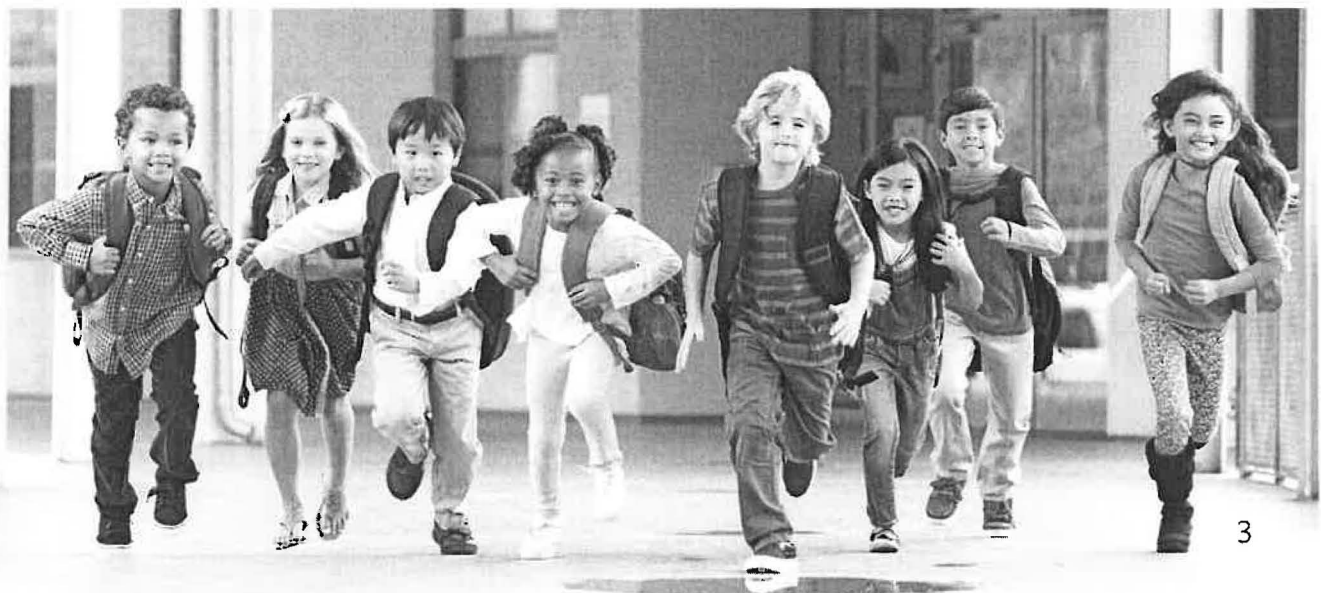
Contract negotiations between L.A. Unified and United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) are ongoing. L.A. Unified remains committed to reaching a fair agreement that both values our hardworking employees and puts our kids and families first.

On September 27, 2018, the Public Employment Relations Board of California (PERB) began mediating these contract negotiations with the goal of finding a resolution and preventing any interruption to our schools. PERB is a state agency that oversees collective bargaining laws and helps to settle disputes.

## **In this guide you will find the following:**

- Frequently Asked Questions that address student attendance, school schedules, and school meals.
- How to prepare for a strike and have a plan that includes staying informed, updating your information and volunteering at your school.
- How to talk about a strike with your child.
- Contact information for your school and other L.A. Unified offices.

Los Angeles Unified remains focused on keeping schools open and providing students with instructional programs.





# Frequently Asked Questions



## **What is a strike?**

When employers and employees are unable to arrive at a compromise during contract negotiations, employees may stop working, or strike, as a means of protest.



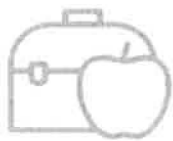
## **Should students attend school if there is a strike?**

Yes. Students are expected to attend school every day. Schools will be open and students will participate in instructional programs.



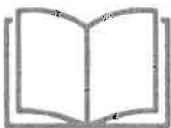
## **Will school schedules change?**

No. School hours, morning and afterschool programs, and meals will NOT change. The regular school schedule will be observed. In the unlikely event that any schedule changes do occur, you will be notified immediately.



## **Will schools continue to serve meals?**

Yes. Food service will not change and each school will continue to provide regularly scheduled meals.



## **Will student learning take place during a strike?**

Yes. Instruction will be provided by qualified L.A. Unified staff, which includes certificated and classified staff, qualified substitute employees, or reassigned administrators.



## **Is it safe to send my child to school?**

Yes. Staff will supervise each campus to ensure student safety at all times.



## **How can I help?**

You can volunteer at your school to help in the classroom, yard, or playground. For more information, reach out to your principal or visit <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page9647>.



### **We love our teachers, why can't L.A. Unified and UTLA arrive at a compromise?**

We all value and appreciate our teachers, but we also want to make sure that the contract we agree upon is reached through the mutual understanding of what's best for students. This means that we have to safeguard the financial health of L.A. Unified, so that we can give our schools the resources necessary to prepare all students to graduate college- and career-ready.



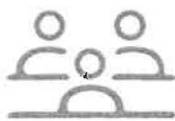
### **The cost of living is high in California. Why doesn't L.A. Unified offer teachers higher wages?**

In June 2018, the L.A. Unified Board of Education approved a 6% salary increase for all employees, including teachers. In addition, teachers received a 10% salary increase phased in for years 2014-17. L.A. Unified offers competitive teacher salaries compared to other large districts in the State of California, and while we would love to offer teachers more, we must operate within our financial means. The average L.A. Unified teacher salary is \$75,000 and the average total compensation, which includes full health care benefits for themselves and dependents, is \$110,000.



### **How can we increase funding for L.A. Unified?**

The California state legislature controls education funding. L.A. Unified gets about 90% of its funding from Sacramento. The current per student amount of \$16,000 is simply not enough. L.A. Unified and all of its labor partners, students, families and communities, need to work together to increase funding for public education. The path forward begins in Sacramento.



### **Has L.A. Unified reached agreements with other labor partners?**

Yes. The District has reached agreements with other labor partners totaling approximately 65% of the District's workforce, and hopes to do the same with UTLA.

# How to prepare for a strike: *Ha*



## **Speak to Your Children**

In the event of a potential strike, speak to your children on a regular basis. This experience may be confusing for them.



## **Update Your Information**

Make sure that the information on your L.A. Unified Emergency Card is updated, so that your school can notify you of any changes. Your school will need updated phone numbers, e-mails and home addresses.

Make sure your school has an updated list of your child's medications. Develop an action plan with your school administrator to administer medicine, particularly emergency injections like Epipens and Glucagon, in order to make sure all healthcare needs are addressed.



## **School Schedule and Activities**

School hours, morning and afterschool programs, and meals will NOT change. The regular school schedule will be observed. In the unlikely event that any schedule changes do occur, you will be notified immediately. You can also check your school website for changes.



## **Cell Phone Use**

The L.A. Unified cell phone policy remains the same.



## **Stay Informed**

Your school will provide ongoing information. You can also stay informed through voicemail, email, text, and social media updates. Visit [www.LAUSD.net](http://www.LAUSD.net) for more information and updates.



## **Grades & Assignments**

Be sure to check grades and assignments through the Parent Portal. Visit: <https://passportapp.lausd.net/parentaccess/>.



## **Get Involved**

You can volunteer at your school to help in the classroom, yard, or playground. For more information, reach out to your principal or visit <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page9647>.

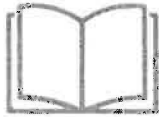
# How to talk about a strike with your children

**In the event of a strike, children may be confused. We recommend that you speak with your children on a regular basis to ask if they have any concerns. Here are some tips that will help you communicate with your children at their age level.**



## Reassure your children.

Explain that the strike is temporary, and that people will return to work.



## Stay focused on schoolwork.

Encourage your children to continue to focus on their studies.



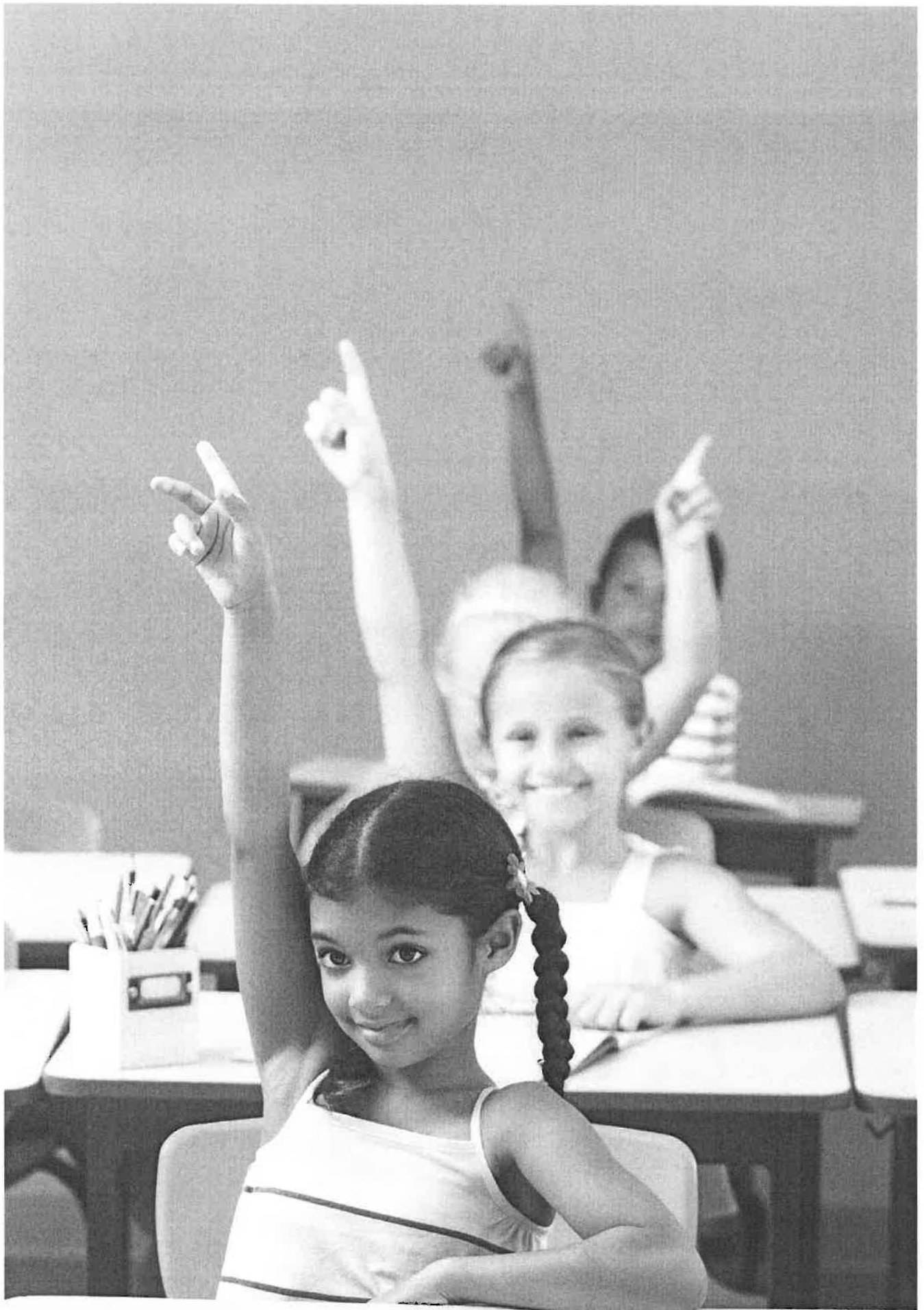
## For children in grades K-5.

This situation could be used as a teachable moment. You can tell your children that sometimes adults have disagreements so they need to get together to talk about it, and work together to find solutions. Conversations about a strike should be personalized to the age of the child. Assure your children that they didn't do anything wrong.



## With children in grades 6-12.

This situation could be used as a teachable moment. For older children, you can provide more information and invite a conversation about this issue. Explain that there are two sides: UTLA and the school district, and that they are both trying to arrive at an agreement that is fair to everyone.



# For more information contact the

## CALL YOUR SCHOOL

Begin by contacting your school. For your school's contact information, please go to: [schooldirectory.lausd.net/schooldirectory](http://schooldirectory.lausd.net/schooldirectory).

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**LABOR UPDATES:** <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/15078>



# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Labor Update  
January 2, 2019





# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Founded:** 1853

**Size:** 710 square miles that includes most of the City of Los Angeles, all or part of 31 other cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. An estimated 4.8 million people live within the school district's boundaries.

**Rank:** Second-largest public school district in the United States

**Number of students:** 694,096 for the 2018-19 school year

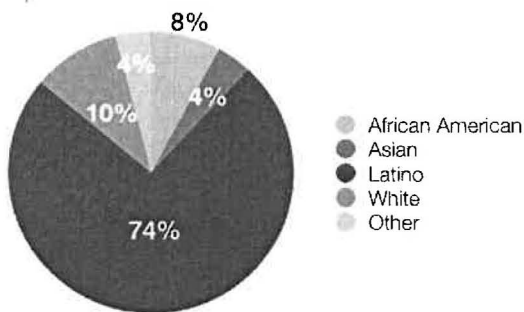
**Number of teachers:** 25,430

**Number of schools:** 1,322

**Total number of employees:** 63,576

**2018-19 budget:** \$7.49 billion

**Student population by ethnicity:**



**Student Demographics:**

80% of K-12 students, approximately 400,000, qualify for the free or reduced lunch program

157,619 are learning to speak English proficiently

7,000 are in foster care

72,307 are special needs students

Almost 17,000 are homeless

**Did you know:**

Los Angeles Unified schools have won more Academic Decathlon championships (12) than any other public school district in the United States.

Los Angeles Unified serves more than 1 million meals a day.

Los Angeles Unified buses travel over 59,000 miles per day – enough to circle the earth twice.

Librarians and library aides care for nearly 10 million books and 5.5 million textbooks.

Over 100,000 students participate in Beyond the Bell, the school district's after school programs.



## A CLOSER LOOK AT LOS ANGELES UNIFIED'S BUDGET

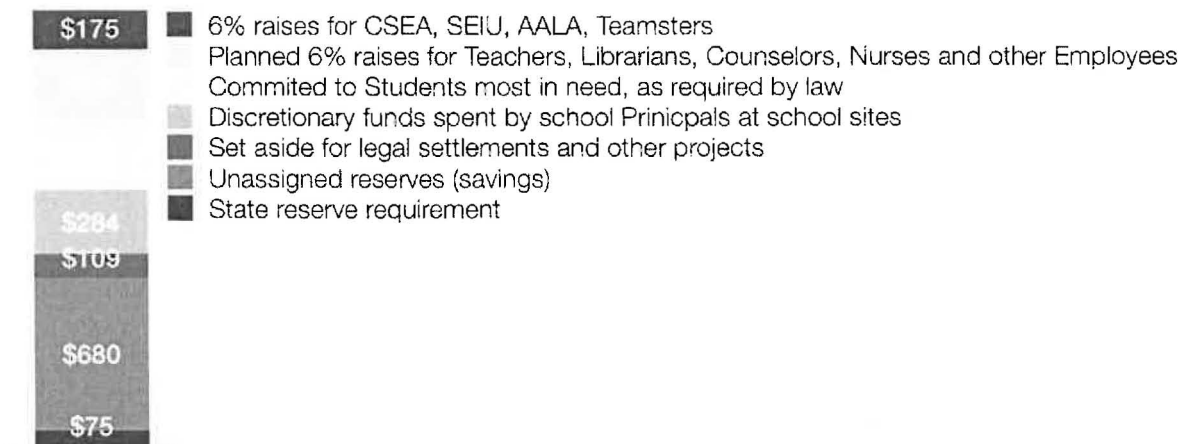
Los Angeles Unified operates schools serving approximately 500,000 students in K-12, making it the second-largest public-school district in the nation. School budgets in California are set in three-year increments and from July 2018 to June 2021, Los Angeles Unified will spend \$24 billion educating students. This includes its entire, existing \$1.8 billion reserve.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
<b>Revenue</b>	\$7.4 billion	\$7.3 billion	\$7.2 billion	\$7.2 billion	\$7.2 billion
<b>Costs</b>	\$7.9 billion	\$7.7 billion	\$7.7 billion	\$8.0 billion	\$8.0 billion
<b>Deficit</b>	(\$500 million)	(\$400 million)	(\$500 million)	(\$700 million)	(\$800 million)

Los Angeles Unified's current financial situation is simply not sustainable. Unless something changes, Los Angeles Unified will be insolvent by 2021 when it will have depleted the \$1.8 billion reserve.



When the new school year begins in July 2019, Los Angeles Unified will have about \$800 million of the reserve left: \$500 million of the \$1.8 billion is already earmarked for federal and state-required programs, such as supporting students in poverty with tutoring and intervention programs. An additional \$500 million is being used for a 6% pay raise for all employees, including teachers; to pay for additional nurses, counselors and librarians, and to improve class size. Because of the budget shortfall, the remaining \$800 million will be completely depleted by the 2021-2022 school year. By then, Los Angeles Unified will not be able to meet even the 1% required reserve standard, let alone the state of California's 3% requirement.



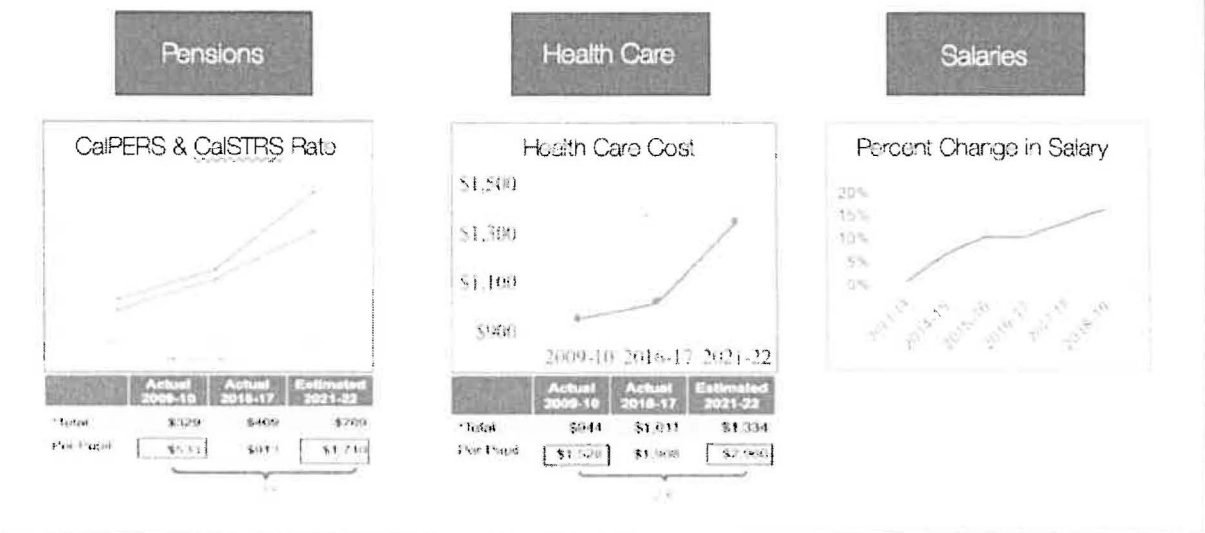


## A CLOSER LOOK AT LOS ANGELES UNIFIED'S BUDGET

The budget shortfall is largely being driven by rising pension and healthcare benefit costs. Los Angeles Unified is in the unusual position of having little control over its employment benefit plans because they are set by a Health Benefits Committee, which UTLA chairs. In addition, Los Angeles Unified has a significantly larger unfunded liability for retiree and healthcare benefits than other school districts.

### Employment Costs Are Rising

Health Care and Pension Costs, in particular, will rise meaningfully



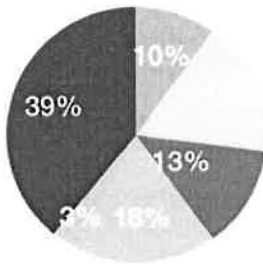


## HOW THE RESERVE WORKS AND WHY THERE IS NO SURPLUS

For more than a decade, the state of California has required school districts to set aside a minimum of 3% of its general fund each year for periods of economic uncertainty. Districts use their reserves to manage cash flow, mitigate volatility in funding, address unexpected costs, save for large purchases, and obtain higher credit ratings. Los Angeles Unified's requirement is 1% less than all other school districts in California.

Public school districts classify money in their reserves in five ways: non-spendable, restricted (by law or external condition), committed (earmarked for future use by the school board), assigned (earmarked by the superintendent or other district official), or unassigned (all other funds).

Just under 40% of Los Angeles Unified's \$1.8 billion reserve is currently unassigned, but all of the money in it will be spent within two years. There is no "surplus." Here's why:



- 6% raises for CSEA, SEIU, AAIA, Teamsters
- Planned 6% raise for teachers, librarians, counselors, nurses and other employees
- School-based commitments
- School-based equity programs
- Districtwide project commitments
- Unassigned reserve

Nearly 20% is committed for federal and state-required programs, such as tutoring and intervention programs, for the most vulnerable student population, including foster youth, students living in poverty and English learners.

Nearly 30% will be used to pay for 6% raises for all employees, including educators, and to pay for additional nurses, counselors and librarians and to lower class sizes.

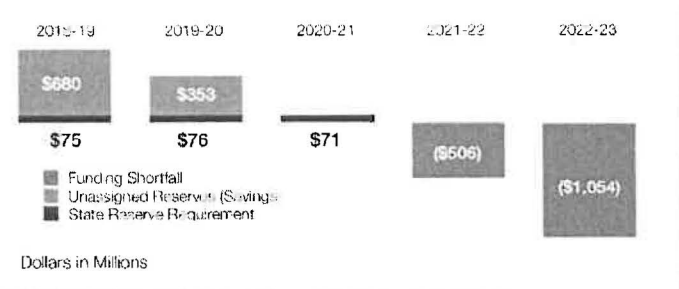
Nearly 15% is discretionary funds already sent to schools to spend in school year 2019-20.

Principals can decide to use these funds for a variety of needs for their schools, such as instructional materials.

About 5% is designated for district-wide expenses such as replacing aging vehicles. Finally, as required by law, \$75 million must be held in reserve.

Because of the growing budget shortfall, the remaining \$700 million (the unassigned reserve) will be completely depleted by the 2021-22 school year when the Los Angeles Unified will not be able to meet even the 1% required reserve requirement.

Los Angeles Unified's current financial situation is simply not sustainable, and unless something changes, it will be insolvent by 2021 when it will have completely depleted the entire \$1.8 billion reserve. In California, school districts are taken over by the state if they become insolvent, like Oakland, Compton and Inglewood.



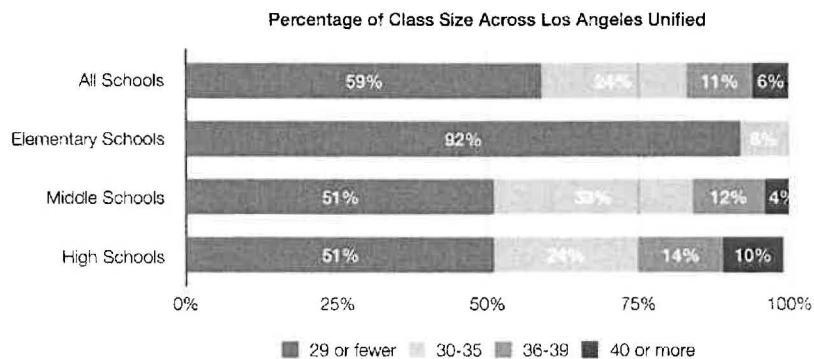


## CLASS SIZE: WHAT'S BEHIND THE NUMBERS

There has been much discussion about class size in Los Angeles Unified and what additional efforts the school district can afford to further decrease the number of students in each class.

In order to have an informed discussion about that issue, it is important to understand exactly how large class size actually is in Los Angeles Unified's schools and how it compares to other large school districts in California.

As of October 2018, the average number of students in a Los Angeles Unified school classroom, excluding physical education and team activity classes, was 26. Nearly 60% of all Los Angeles Unified schools and 92% of the elementary schools have 29 or fewer students in each classroom.



Only 6% of schools have 40 or more students in a classroom. We recognize that it is challenging for those educators that have large classes and agree that we must do better.

That is why, as part of our most recent offer to UTLA's leadership, we included \$30 million of additional funding to reduce the number of students in a classroom and increase the number of counselors, librarians and nurses at our schools.

Los Angeles Unified has the second-lowest average class size of California's top 10 largest school districts. San Francisco, with an average of 25 students in a class, is the only large district in California that has fewer. However, the San Francisco School District also has a lower total annual compensation rate for its teachers, spending \$83,406 per teacher compared with Los Angeles Unified's current annual compensation rate of \$84,108 which would increase to \$89,100 if the proposed 6% raise goes into effect.

	Average District Class Size	Grades K-3	Grades 4-6	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12
San Francisco	25.10	19.63	26.39	26.60	25.35
Los Angeles	25.97	22.11	28.50	28.43	25.12
Fresno	27.32	22.15	28.53	29.13	27.44
San Diego	28.46	23.08	29.68	29.72	28.80
Elk Grove	28.56	23.59	27.05	30.75	28.80
San Bernardino City	28.94	21.74	29.80	30.68	29.84
Santa Ana	29.33	27.71	29.94	30.46	28.88
Capistrano	29.66	23.41	30.48	31.05	29.77
Long Beach	30.04	24.90	32.39	33.38	29.11
Corona-Norco	30.69	26.97	28.48	31.62	31.12

Source: State of California, Department of Education, 2017-18 State Certified Reports J-90, CBEDS, SACS





# STATUS OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

January 2, 2019



On December 17 and 28, 2018, Los Angeles Unified again asked UTLA leadership to resume contract negotiations to resolve the remaining issues. UTLA remains unwilling to engage in contract negotiations and has not agreed to engage in any contract discussions since the release of the Fact Finding Report on December 17, 2018.

A summary of the remaining issues and the parties' positions follows.

## Monetary Items

Factfinding Report	Los Angeles Unified Current Offer	UTLA Last, Best and Final Offer
December 17, 2018	January 2, 2019	Effectively no change since April 2017
3% raise 2017-18 school year <sup>1</sup> 3% raise 2018-19 school year	3% raise 2017-18 school year 3% raise 2018-19 school year	6.5% raise 2016-17 school year
--	--	Back Pay for 2016-17
Back Pay for 2017-18	Back Pay for 2017-18	Back Pay for 2017-18
No additional work or professional development to earn pay raise	No additional work or professional development to earn pay raise	No additional work or professional development to earn pay raise
Investment of 1% – 3% (\$29 – \$87M) in class size reduction, hiring of additional counselors, nurses and librarians	Investment of \$30 million annually in class size reduction and/or hiring of additional counselors, nurses and librarians.	Additional staffing and class size reduction at a cost of \$786 million annually
Elimination of Section 1.5 of CBA negotiation of new class-size maximums and averages, and inclusion of financial triggers to safeguard District finances	Elimination of Section 1.5 of CBA, negotiation of new class-size maximums and averages, and inclusion of financial triggers to safeguard District finances	Eliminate section 1.5 of CBA

<sup>1</sup> UTLA Fact Finding Panel Appointee, Vern Gates, Negotiations Specialist California Teachers Association, "I concur with Chair Weinberg's recommendation regarding the District's salary proposal with respect to the compensation increase of 3% for 2017- 2018 and 3% for 2018-2019."



Los Angeles Unified has made proposals to resolve issues reflected in the chart below.

UTLA has also made some non-monetary demands which would take away the ability of school leaders and the community to make decisions in the best interests of students. Other UTLA demands are not lawfully subjects of bargaining, as reflected in a PERB Complaint issued on December 10, 2018 against UTLA.

<b>Non-monetary Items</b>		
<b>Fact Finding Report</b>	<b>Los Angeles Unified Current Offer</b>	<b>UTLA Last, Best and Final Offer</b>
December 17, 2018	December 28, 2018	Effectively no change since April 2017
Reimbursement rate proposed by UTLA for release time (Article IV-UTLA Rights)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017
Exclude suspensions as disciplinary action that would foreclose teachers from being considered for additional pay options (Article X-A-Discipline)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017
Multiple dates of eligibility for salary differentials (Article XI-B-Master Plan)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017
Maintain teacher eligibility for half-time leave (Article XII-Leaves of Absence)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017
Provide additional information to substitute teachers before they accept classroom assignments (Article XIX-Substitute Employees)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017
Maintain seniority in assignments for Summer/Winter Session (Article XX- Summer/Winter Session)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017
Locate and provide workspace for itinerant employees (Article XXXI-Miscellaneous)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017

## Unlawful Items Reflected in PERB Complaint

PERB Complaint	Los Angeles Unified Current Offer	UTLA Last, Best and Final Offer
December 17, 2018	December 28, 2018	Effectively no change since April 2017
Magnet School Conversions are not lawfully a subject of bargaining	Same position as PERB Complaint	Magnet School Conversions should require a supermajority staff vote
Determination of testing is not lawfully a subject of bargaining	Same position as PERB Complaint	UTLA members should have complete discretion to determine when and/or what assessments are used in the classroom
School-based funding is not lawfully a subject of bargaining	Same position as PERB Complaint	UTLA should have control over how discretionary local school funding is spent instead of school principals
Teacher class assignment is not lawfully a subject of bargaining	Same position as PERB Complaint	UTLA vote to determine procedures for teacher class assignment at every school. UTLA vote on selection of a coach, coordinator, or dean.
Rules about changing in status of temporary teacher to probationary are not lawful subjects of bargaining.	Same position as PERB Complaint	Change rules how temporary Adult Education teachers become probationary.
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**Background.** Los Angeles Unified and UTLA began bargaining in April 2017 for a successor agreement to the one that expired in June 2017. After 23 bargaining sessions, an impasse was declared by PERB. Three mediation sessions, supervised by a state mediator followed, in which 24 new and existing sections of the contract were discussed. Three items were either withdrawn or agreed upon and the remaining 21 sections were presented to the three-member Fact-Finding panel made up of a representative from each party and chaired by a state-appointed neutral arbiter. The neutral, independent Fact Finder Chair, professional mediator David A. Weinberg, issued his recommendations on December 17, 2018, after four days of deliberations.

**Main Findings.** The state-appointed neutral Fact Finder recommended that:

- **Salary:** UTLA accept Los Angeles Unified's offer of a 6% raise (3% effective July 1, 2017 and 3% July 1, 2018) without the provision for an additional 12 hours of professional development. Los Angeles Unified has agreed. The UTLA appointee on the Fact Finding panel concurred with this proposal.
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# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Labor Update  
January 2, 2019





# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Founded:** 1853

**Size:** 710 square miles that includes most of the City of Los Angeles, all or part of 31 other cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. An estimated 4.8 million people live within the school district's boundaries.

**Rank:** Second-largest public school district in the United States

**Number of students:** 694,096 for the 2018-19 school year

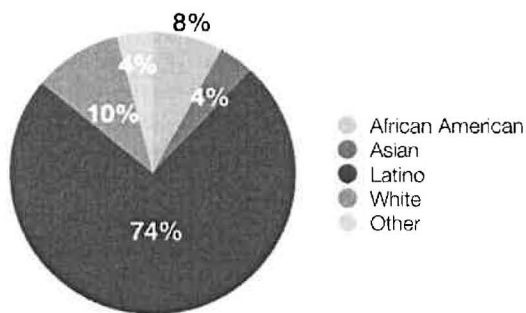
**Number of teachers:** 25,430

**Number of schools:** 1,322

**Total number of employees:** 63,576

**2018-19 budget:** \$7.49 billion

**Student population by ethnicity:**



## Student Demographics:

80% of K-12 students, approximately 400,000, qualify for the free or reduced lunch program

157,619 are learning to speak English proficiently

7,000 are in foster care

72,307 are special needs students

Almost 17,000 are homeless

## Did you know:

Los Angeles Unified schools have won more Academic Decathlon championships (12) than any other public school district in the United States.

Los Angeles Unified serves more than 1 million meals a day.

Los Angeles Unified buses travel over 59,000 miles per day – enough to circle the earth twice.

Librarians and library aides care for nearly 10 million books and 5.5 million textbooks.

Over 100,000 students participate in Beyond the Bell, the school district's after school programs.



## A CLOSER LOOK AT LOS ANGELES UNIFIED'S BUDGET

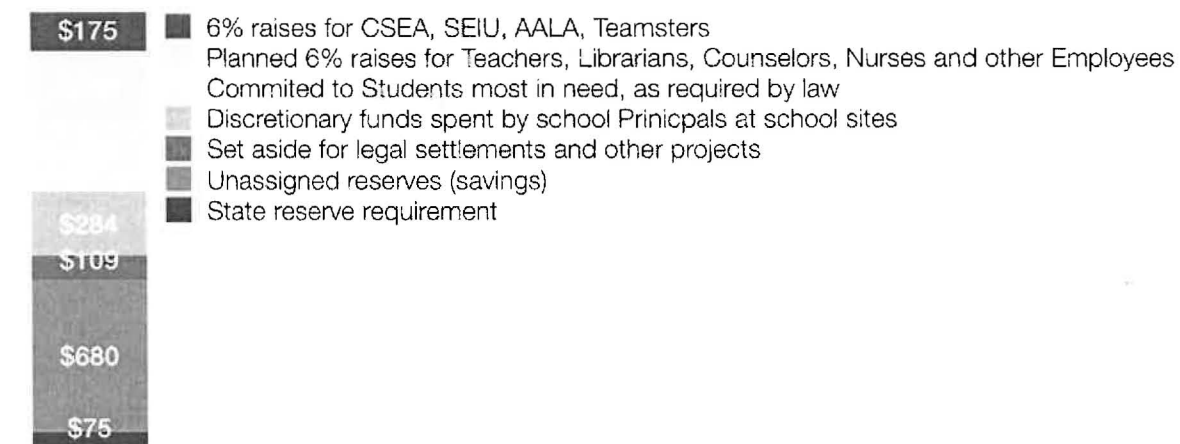
Los Angeles Unified operates schools serving approximately 500,000 students in K-12, making it the second-largest public-school district in the nation. School budgets in California are set in three-year increments and from July 2018 to June 2021, Los Angeles Unified will spend \$24 billion educating students. This includes its entire, existing \$1.8 billion reserve.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
<b>Revenue</b>	\$7.4 billion	\$7.3 billion	\$7.2 billion	\$7.2 billion	\$7.2 billion
<b>Costs</b>	\$7.9 billion	\$7.7 billion	\$7.7 billion	\$8.0 billion	\$8.0 billion
<b>Deficit</b>	(\$500 million)	(\$400 million)	(\$500 million)	(\$700 million)	(\$800 million)

Los Angeles Unified's current financial situation is simply not sustainable. Unless something changes, Los Angeles Unified will be insolvent by 2021 when it will have depleted the \$1.8 billion reserve.



When the new school year begins in July 2019, Los Angeles Unified will have about \$800 million of the reserve left: \$500 million of the \$1.8 billion is already earmarked for federal and state-required programs, such as supporting students in poverty with tutoring and intervention programs. An additional \$500 million is being used for a 6% pay raise for all employees, including teachers; to pay for additional nurses, counselors and librarians, and to improve class size. Because of the budget shortfall, the remaining \$800 million will be completely depleted by the 2021-2022 school year. By then, Los Angeles Unified will not be able to meet even the 1% required reserve standard, let alone the state of California's 3% requirement.





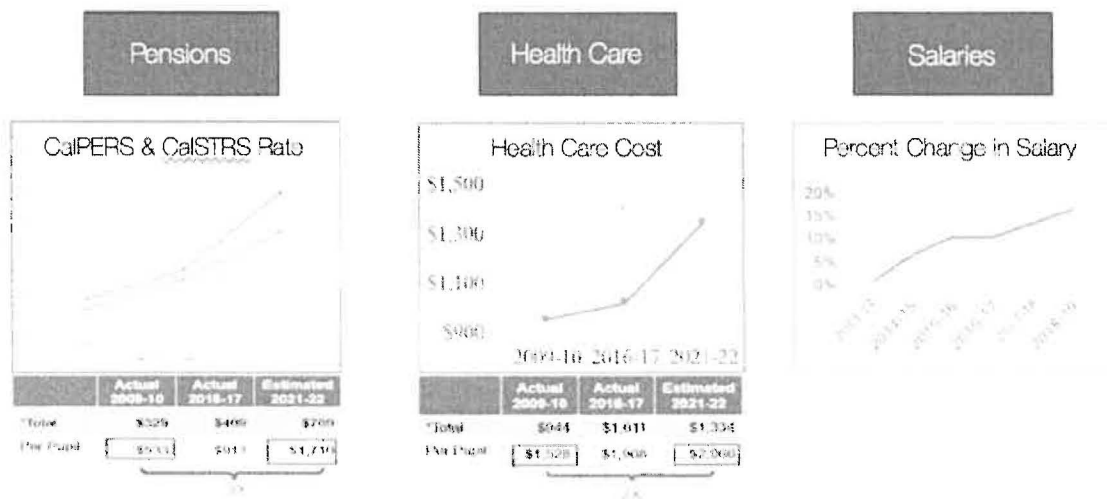


# A CLOSER LOOK AT LOS ANGELES UNIFIED'S BUDGET

The budget shortfall is largely being driven by rising pension and healthcare benefit costs. Los Angeles Unified is in the unusual position of having little control over its employment benefit plans because they are set by a Health Benefits Committee, which UTLA chairs. In addition, Los Angeles Unified has a significantly larger unfunded liability for retiree and healthcare benefits than other school districts.

## Employment Costs Are Rising

Health Care and Pension Costs, in particular, will rise meaningfully





## HOW THE RESERVE WORKS AND WHY THERE IS NO SURPLUS

For more than a decade, the state of California has required school districts to set aside a minimum of 3% of its general fund each year for periods of economic uncertainty. Districts use their reserves to manage cash flow, mitigate volatility in funding, address unexpected costs, save for large purchases, and obtain higher credit ratings. Los Angeles Unified's requirement is 1% less than all other school districts in California.

Public school districts classify money in their reserves in five ways: non-spendable, restricted (by law or external condition), committed (earmarked for future use by the school board), assigned (earmarked by the superintendent or other district official), or unassigned (all other funds).

Just under 40% of Los Angeles Unified's \$1.8 billion reserve is currently unassigned, but all of the money in it will be spent within two years. There is no "surplus." Here's why:



- 6% raises for CSEA, SEIU, AAIA, Teamsters
- Planned 6% raise for teachers, librarians, counselors, nurses and other employees
- School-based commitments
- School-based equity programs
- Districtwide project commitments
- Unassigned reserve

Nearly 20% is committed for federal and state-required programs, such as tutoring and intervention programs, for the most vulnerable student population, including foster youth, students living in poverty and English learners.

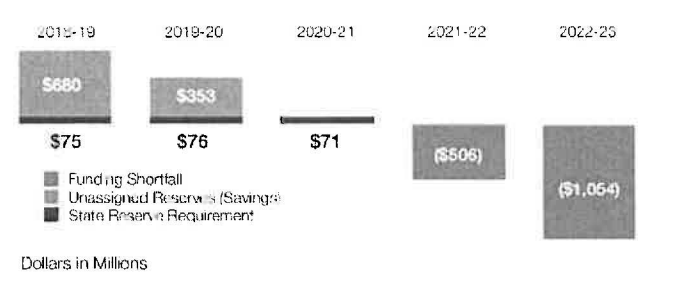
Nearly 30% will be used to pay for 6% raises for all employees, including educators, and to pay for additional nurses, counselors and librarians and to lower class sizes.

Nearly 15% is discretionary funds already sent to schools to spend in school year 2019-20. Principals can decide to use these funds for a variety of needs for their schools, such as instructional materials.

About 5% is designated for district-wide expenses such as replacing aging vehicles. Finally, as required by law, \$75 million must be held in reserve.

Because of the growing budget shortfall, the remaining \$700 million (the unassigned reserve) will be completely depleted by the 2021-22 school year when the Los Angeles Unified will not be able to meet even the 1% required reserve requirement.

Los Angeles Unified's current financial situation is simply not sustainable, and unless something changes, it will be insolvent by 2021 when it will have completely depleted the entire \$1.8 billion reserve. In California, school districts are taken over by the state if they become insolvent, like Oakland, Compton and Inglewood.



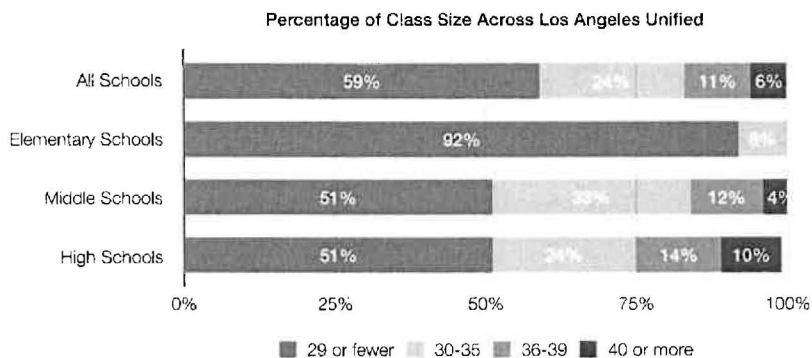


## CLASS SIZE: WHAT'S BEHIND THE NUMBERS

There has been much discussion about class size in Los Angeles Unified and what additional efforts the school district can afford to further decrease the number of students in each class.

In order to have an informed discussion about that issue, it is important to understand exactly how large class size actually is in Los Angeles Unified's schools and how it compares to other large school districts in California.

As of October 2018, the average number of students in a Los Angeles Unified school classroom, excluding physical education and team activity classes, was 26. Nearly 60% of all Los Angeles Unified schools and 92% of the elementary schools have 29 or fewer students in each classroom.



Only 6% of schools have 40 or more students in a classroom. We recognize that it is challenging for those educators that have large classes and agree that we must do better.

That is why, as part of our most recent offer to UTLA's leadership, we included \$30 million of additional funding to reduce the number of students in a classroom and increase the number of counselors, librarians and nurses at our schools.

Los Angeles Unified has the second-lowest average class size of California's top 10 largest school districts. San Francisco, with an average of 25 students in a class, is the only large district in California that has fewer. However, the San Francisco School District also has a lower total annual compensation rate for its teachers, spending \$83,406 per teacher compared with Los Angeles Unified's current annual compensation rate of \$84,108 which would increase to \$89,100 if the proposed 6% raise goes into effect.

	Average District Class Size	Grades K-3	Grades 4-6	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12
San Francisco	25.10	19.63	26.39	26.60	25.35
Los Angeles	25.97	22.11	28.50	28.43	25.12
Fresno	27.32	22.15	28.53	29.13	27.44
San Diego	28.46	23.08	29.68	29.72	28.80
Elk Grove	28.56	23.59	27.05	30.75	28.80
San Bernardino City	28.94	21.74	29.80	30.68	29.84
Santa Ana	29.33	27.71	29.94	30.46	28.88
Capistrano	29.66	23.41	30.48	31.05	29.77
Long Beach	30.04	24.90	32.39	33.38	29.11
Corona-Norco	30.69	26.97	28.48	31.62	31.12

Source: State of California, Department of Education, 2017-18 State Certified Reports J-90, CBEDS, SACS



# STATUS OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

January 2, 2019



On December 17 and 28, 2018, Los Angeles Unified again asked UTLA leadership to resume contract negotiations to resolve the remaining issues. UTLA remains unwilling to engage in contract negotiations and has not agreed to engage in any contract discussions since the release of the Fact Finding Report on December 17, 2018.

A summary of the remaining issues and the parties' positions follows.

Monetary Items		
Factfinding Report	Los Angeles Unified Current Offer	UTLA Last, Best and Final Offer
December 17, 2018	January 2, 2019	Effectively no change since April 2017
3% raise 2017-18 school year <sup>1</sup> 3% raise 2018-19 school year	3% raise 2017-18 school year 3% raise 2018-19 school year	6.5% raise 2016-17 school year
--	--	Back Pay for 2016-17
Back Pay for 2017-18	Back Pay for 2017-18	Back Pay for 2017-18
No additional work or professional development to earn pay raise	No additional work or professional development to earn pay raise	No additional work or professional development to earn pay raise
Investment of 1% – 3% (\$29 – \$87M) in class size reduction, hiring of additional counselors, nurses and librarians	Investment of \$30 million annually in class size reduction and/or hiring of additional counselors, nurses and librarians.	Additional staffing and class size reduction at a cost of \$786 million annually
Elimination of Section 1.5 of CBA negotiation of new class-size maximums and averages, and inclusion of financial triggers to safeguard District finances	Elimination of Section 1.5 of CBA, negotiation of new class-size maximums and averages, and inclusion of financial triggers to safeguard District finances	Eliminate section 1.5 of CBA

<sup>1</sup> UTLA Fact Finding Panel Appointee, Vern Gates, Negotiations Specialist California Teachers Association, "I concur with Chair Weinberg's recommendation regarding the District's salary proposal with respect to the compensation increase of 3% for 2017- 2018 and 3% for 2018-2019."

Los Angeles Unified has made proposals to resolve issues reflected in the chart below.

UTLA has also made some non-monetary demands which would take away the ability of school leaders and the community to make decisions in the best interests of students. Other UTLA demands are not lawfully subjects of bargaining, as reflected in a PERB Complaint issued on December 10, 2018 against UTLA.

#### Non-monetary Items

<b>Fact Finding Report</b>	<b>Los Angeles Unified Current Offer</b>	<b>UTLA Last, Best and Final Offer</b>
December 17, 2018	December 28, 2018	Effectively no change since April 2017
Reimbursement rate proposed by UTLA for release time (Article IV-UTLA Rights)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017
Exclude suspensions as disciplinary action that would foreclose teachers from being considered for additional pay options (Article X-A-Discipline)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017
Multiple dates of eligibility for salary differentials (Article XI-B-Master Plan)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017
Maintain teacher eligibility for half-time leave (Article XII-Leaves of Absence)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017
Provide additional information to substitute teachers before they accept classroom assignments (Article XIX-Substitute Employees)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017
Maintain seniority in assignments for Summer/Winter Session (Article XX- Summer/Winter Session)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017
Locate and provide workspace for itinerant employees (Article XXXI-Miscellaneous)	Accept factfinding recommendation	Effectively no change since April 2017

## Unlawful Items Reflected in PERB Complaint

PERB Complaint	Los Angeles Unified Current Offer	UTLA Last, Best and Final Offer
December 17, 2018	December 28, 2018	Effectively no change since April 2017
Magnet School Conversions are not lawfully a subject of bargaining	Same position as PERB Complaint	Magnet School Conversions should require a supermajority staff vote
Determination of testing is not lawfully a subject of bargaining	Same position as PERB Complaint	UTLA members should have complete discretion to determine when and/or what assessments are used in the classroom
School-based funding is not lawfully a subject of bargaining	Same position as PERB Complaint	UTLA should have control over how discretionary local school funding is spent instead of school principals
Teacher class assignment is not lawfully a subject of bargaining	Same position as PERB Complaint	UTLA vote to determine procedures for teacher class assignment at every school. UTLA vote on selection of a coach, coordinator, or dean.
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## Los Angeles Unified School District

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# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Shannon Haber (213) 241-6766**

**Jan. 9, 2019**

**#18/19-110**

## **Los Angeles County Office of Education Appoints Fiscal Experts to Los Angeles Unified as School District Leadership Meets with Sacramento Leaders to Discuss the State of the District and Opportunities to Work Together**

*Board President García and Superintendent Beutner met with Governor Newsom's office and state legislators who represent the communities Los Angeles Unified serves*

Today, the Los Angeles County Office of Education appointed "a team of fiscal experts to work with Los Angeles Unified to develop a Fiscal Stabilization Plan that will eliminate deficit spending and restore required financial reserve levels." The team of fiscal experts will work closely with the Los Angeles Unified Board of Education and the Superintendent to provide guidance on financial resources and develop a Fiscal Stabilization Plan.

"The appointment of the team of fiscal experts underscores the need to continue taking steps to ensure the financial health of Los Angeles Unified, and work to increase funding for schools to better serve our students, families, and employees," said Scott Price, Los Angeles Unified Chief Financial Officer.

The appointment comes as Los Angeles Unified Board President Monica Garcia and Superintendent Austin Beutner met with Governor Newsom's team and state legislators representing the communities of Los Angeles to discuss opportunities to work together to improve public education.

"We are working hard to place public education at the forefront of the agenda in Sacramento," said Superintendent Austin Beutner. "We are committed to working with our labor partners, families, and elected leaders and to find provide students with the best possible education."

UTLA has moved the strike to Monday, January 14, creating an opportunity to continue working to find a solution to contract issues. Los Angeles Unified will be available around the clock to meet with UTLA to resolve contract issues.

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# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Margo Minecki, Public Information Officer, Office: 562-922-6313; Cell: 562-500-5184

## **Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools Assigns Team of Fiscal Experts to Los Angeles Unified School District**

*Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Takes Action to Develop a Realistic Fiscal  
Stabilization Plan for LAUSD That Will Eliminate Deficit Spending and Restore  
Required Financial Reserve Levels*

DOWNEY, Calif. (Wednesday, January 9, 2019) — After months of warnings and a continued worsening of LAUSD's financial situation, Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Debra Duardo today announced the assignment of a team of fiscal experts to work with LAUSD to develop a Fiscal Stabilization Plan that will eliminate deficit spending and restore required financial reserve levels.

In a November 8, 2018 letter, LACOE directed LAUSD to undertake a variety of financial adjustments by December 17, 2018, to ensure that LAUSD's financial health was secure. LAUSD subsequently submitted a "1<sup>st</sup> Interim" Fiscal Stabilization Plan, which failed to adequately address its structural imbalance of deficit spending, and identified a worsening financial outlook, resulting in a "qualified" budget self-certification.

LACOE has confirmed these findings, determining that LAUSD did not implement some identified reductions, and is projecting higher than expected salary expenses. Therefore, LACOE is taking action under Education Code 42131(b), which allows the County Superintendent to intervene and compel the District to implement certain measures to improve the District's financial condition. This is largely triggered by the District's projections of a 90.62% drop in reserve levels over the next three years, without an adequate plan to correct ongoing deficit spending.

As such, effective immediately, LACOE is assigning a team of fiscal experts to work with LAUSD to develop a realistic Fiscal Stabilization Plan to eliminate deficit spending and restore the required levels of financial reserves. This team will be led by Dr. Jim Morris, a 29-year veteran of LAUSD who served as Principal, Local District Superintendent, and Chief Operating Officer, followed by seven years as Superintendent of the Fremont Unified School District. This team will work with LAUSD to develop an improved "2<sup>nd</sup> Interim" Fiscal Stabilization Plan that will address these issues, with a deadline to have this plan approved by the LAUSD Board and submitted to LACOE by March 18, 2019.

(more)

To be clear, LACOE has no position on ongoing negotiations with United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA), though we clearly hope that a strike can be avoided, due to its significant educational as well as financial impacts on LAUSD students and their families. However, we will study closely any settlement reached to ensure that any additional financial commitments are combined with appropriate reductions to achieve a balanced budget. In addition, while the State budget has yet to be issued, we also remain concerned about meeting ongoing expenditures with one-time revenues, so we do not view any potential one-time revenues from the State as an ongoing solution.

This team will begin work immediately.

ATTACHMENTS:        Bios of Dr. Duardo and Dr. Morris  
                              January 9, 2019 letter to LAUSD Board  
                              November 8, 2018 letter to LAUSD Board

###

## BIOS

**Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.**

***Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools***

Debra Duardo is Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools, the top education leader of the nation's most populous and diverse county.

Dr. Duardo serves as the chief executive officer for the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and as secretary of the County Board of Education. In this post, Dr. Duardo provides leadership and support and oversight to the superintendents and other top administrators in 80 school districts serving 1.5 million students.

She has 30 years of professional experience working with at-risk students and their families.

She holds a doctorate from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, and a master's degree in Social Work from UCLA.

**James Morris, Ed.D.**

***Retired Superintendent***

James Morris began his career in the Los Angeles Unified School District in 1981 as a teacher. During his career in LAUSD, he served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and a variety of other administrative positions including Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Chief of Staff, Chief Operating Officer, and Local Superintendent of District 2 supervising over 100 schools with 103,000 students and families in the east San Fernando Valley.

In July 2010, he was selected as Superintendent of the Fremont Unified School District in Fremont, California where he served for 7 years. During his time in Fremont, he led the high achieving, rapidly growing district to pass 2 parcel taxes and the school largest facilities bond in Alameda County history.

He retired from the Fremont Unified School District in June 2017 and currently works part-time for the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

He holds a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, a Master's degree in Educational Administration, and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA).

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## Los Angeles County Office of Education

Serving Students • Supporting Communities • Leading Educators

Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.  
Superintendent

November 8, 2018

Los Angeles County  
Board of Education

Thomas A. Saenz  
President

James Cross  
Vice President

Candace Bond McKeever

Douglas R. Boyd

Alex Johnson

Gregory McGinity

Monte E. Perez

Ms. Monica Garcia, Board President  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5141

Dear Ms. Garcia:

### BUDGET APPROVAL

Under Education Code (EC) Section 42127, the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) has completed the review of the Los Angeles Unified School District's (District) revised budget for fiscal year 2018-19. **That review has resulted in approving the District's budget** with the following comments and concerns.

In our letter dated September 10, 2018, the District's Board of Education was required to do the following no later than October 8, 2018:

- Address deficit spending in an updated Fiscal Stabilization Plan (FSP) with Board Resolution.
- Make any necessary Board-approved adjustments to the 2018-19 budget, adopt an updated, detailed FSP with Board Resolution, and allocate the potential expenditure reductions to the appropriate account codes in its multiyear projections.
- Any reductions that require negotiation with the District's bargaining units should be included only if those negotiations have been settled. Revenue enhancements that require approval by the District's voters, such as a parcel tax, cannot be considered until voter approval is obtained.
- Submit a Board-approved budget adjustment for the discretionary one-time Proposition 98 funds difference, along with any dependent expenditures.
- Monitor all Fiscally Independent Charter Schools (FICS), facilitate resolution of negative ending net positions or negative resource balances, and incorporate 2017-18 Unaudited Actuals ending net position in a status update on the FICS with a written summary of their oversight efforts.
- Board-approve and submit the 2018-19 Revised Budget to the County Superintendent.

Ms. Monica Garcia, Board President  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
November 8, 2018  
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As required, the District submitted its General Fund revised budget and the updated FSP with Board Resolution that address deficit spending, make a Board-approved budget adjustment for the discretionary one-time Proposition 98 funds difference, along with any dependent expenditures, and allocate the potential expenditure reductions to the appropriate account codes in its multiyear projections. In addition, the FICS Status Report incorporates 2017-18 Unaudited Actuals ending net positions, provides 2017-18 oversight report reasons for net deficit and corrective actions plans, with a written summary.

### **FISCAL STABILIZATION PLAN**

We noted in our review that the District's updated FSP-Option 1 includes four reductions:

- \$42.9 million, or approximately 15 percent, for Central Office Reduction,
- \$35.0 million for Administrator to Teacher Ratio (R2) penalties elimination pending waiver approval by the California Department of Education (CDE),
- \$5.0 million for Change in Procurement Cycle, and
- \$3.0 million for Attendance Incentive Program additional allocation discontinuance.

The alternate updated FSP-Option 2 excludes 2019-20 and 2020-21 years for R2 item above, but includes two added reductions:

- \$6.0 million for Freeze on Travel, Cellphone and Equipment, and
- \$29.0 million, or approximately another 10 percent, for Central Office Reduction as detailed by each division.

### **DEFICIT SPENDING**

We have noted the District is projecting an operating deficit of \$64.7 million, representing 1.33 percent of the unrestricted General Fund's projected expenditures and other outgo for fiscal year 2018-19. The District also projects operating deficits of \$82.3 million and \$129.7 million, representing 1.73 percent and 2.75 percent for fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively. According to our review, and as confirmed by the District, the projected deficits are primarily due to revenue loss associated with declining enrollment, the increasing costs related to pensions, Special Education encroachment and facilities maintenance required minimum contribution.

The District's General Fund ending balance and reserves are projected to decrease as a result of deficit spending, which is illustrated in the table below.

**Unrestricted General Fund Projection  
 (\$ millions)**

	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>
Beginning Unrestricted General Fund Balance	\$1,863.3	\$1,798.6	\$1,716.3
Projected Deficit Spending	(\$64.7)	(\$82.3)	(\$129.7)
Ending Unrestricted General Fund Balance	<u>\$1,798.6</u>	<u>\$1,716.3</u>	<u>\$1,586.6</u>
REU Amount	\$775.0	\$441.4	\$76.5
REU Percent	10.26 percent	5.97 percent	1.04 percent

We emphasize the need for the Board to recognize the long-term impact of the District's structural deficit spending and are concerned that time-sensitive financial decisions are being postponed. Over the three-year span, the unrestricted General Fund's reserve is projected to decrease from \$778.3 million to \$76.5 million, a **decline of 90.17 percent**. The deficit spending in 2019-20 and 2020-21 depletes reserves to the State Criteria and Standards required level in 2020-21. Therefore, **we require that the District address deficit spending in an updated FSP with Board Resolution to be submitted with its 2018-19 First Interim, due to our office on or before December 17, 2018.** Our recommendation is to seek ways to balance the budget through expenditure reductions, revenue enhancements, or a combination of the two.

**DECLINING ENROLLMENT AND REDUCED STATE FUNDING**

The District's 2018-19 Adopted Budget reflects declining enrollment from traditional schools and locally funded/affiliated charter schools with projected funded average daily attendance (ADA) of 471,854 in 2018-19, 459,876 in 2019-20 and 445,720 in 2020-21. The estimated impact of the declining enrollment on the District's projected funded ADA reflects a two-year loss totaling 26,134 ADA, representing a 5.54 percent decrease from the District's 2018-19 ADA.

We remind the District EC Section 42238.5(a)(1) allows districts with declining attendance to continue to receive funding based on **the greater of** prior year or current year actual attendance. This provides a one-year delay for the loss of revenue due to declining enrollment/attendance.



Ms. Monica Garcia, Board President  
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Declining enrollment districts with charter schools must consider the effect of the movement of district ADA to district-authorized charter schools. ADA for students who attended a district non-charter the previous year, and who now attend a district-authorized charter, is deducted from prior year ADA for purposes of calculating declining enrollment ADA.

However, the District will lose State funding over time if the decline in enrollment continues. It must carefully monitor its enrollment trends and adjust its financial projections accordingly for the current and subsequent fiscal years if further material reductions in enrollment occur or are expected to occur, as well as develop long-range facilities plans to address corresponding declining enrollment.

#### **LABOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

According to the information provided in the District's budget, except for the comprehensive Health Benefits Agreement, Service Employees International Union, Associated Administrators Los Angeles and California School Employees Association settlements, the United Teachers Los Angeles certificated union's and four classified unions' labor contract negotiations for 2017-18 and 2018-19 remain unsettled. However, potential increases have been calculated and incorporated into budgeted salary and benefit assignments of ending fund balance. Because labor costs make up a large portion of the District's budget, we are concerned any salary and benefit increase, if paid from reserves or other one-time resources, could adversely affect the fiscal condition of the District. We caution the District this approach of funding ongoing salary increases with one-time resources is not a best business practice.

This letter is a reminder, before the District's Board of Education takes any action on a proposed collective bargaining agreement, the District must meet the public disclosure requirements of Government Code Section 3547.5 and the California Code of Regulations Title V, Section 15449. The document used for this analysis was included in Informational Bulletin No. 4845, dated July 2, 2018, and is titled "2018-19 Forms for Assembly Bill (AB) 1200: Public Disclosure of Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreements." This document can be found at the following website:

<https://www.lacoe.edu/BusinessServices/DocumentsForms.aspx>

#### **DEBT ISSUANCE**

This letter also serves as a reminder of the statutory requirements placed on debt issuance by school districts with qualified or negative interim report certifications. These requirements are specifically addressed by EC Section 42133 (a).

## **FISCALLY INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS OVERSIGHT**

Authorizing districts are required, by EC Section 47604.32, to ensure each charter school under its authority complies with all reports required by law of charter schools, and to monitor the fiscal solvency of that charter school. Furthermore, EC Section 47604(c) specifies failure to comply with all oversight responsibility could result in a district losing its protection against liability for any nonprofit public benefit corporation charter school that the district has authorized.

Therefore, it is critical that charter schools' budgets and Interim Reports contain sufficient fiscal information to enable their authorizing districts to perform adequate review and analysis of the report as part of their fiscal oversight responsibilities. As part of this oversight responsibility, authorizers should request a rationale for all negative fund balances, for which the district would be held liable. Authorizing districts are urged to collect supporting data, in addition to the budget, from their charter schools similar to what districts submit to LACOE, including detailed assumptions and multiyear projections.

Effective 2018-19, the District's Charter School Division no longer consolidates and reports the direct-funded charter schools' budgeted revenues and expenditures under SACS Form 09 (Charter Schools Special Revenue Fund) and SACS Form 62 (Charter Schools Enterprise Fund). These FICS complete and report the SACS forms directly to the District for routing to LACOE.

The District routed its 220+ FICS SACS Form 62 for 2018-19 July 1 Budget with 12 FICS having a 2018-19 negative ending net position totaling \$20.9 million. Subsequently, the District's 2017-18 Unaudited Actuals were submitted with 15 FICS having a 2017-18 negative ending net position totaling \$26.9 million. **The District is required to continue to monitor all FICS, facilitate resolution of 2018-19 projected negative ending net positions, and submit First Interim Reports for each FICS, either in SACS form or an alternate form. Written status reports on the 15 FICS and any new FICS with negative ending net position, should be submitted subsequently.**

## **SUBMISSION OF STUDIES, REPORTS, EVALUATIONS, AND/OR AUDITS**

EC Sections 42127 and 42127.6 require districts to submit to the County Superintendent any studies, reports, evaluations, or audits completed of the district that contain evidence that the district is showing fiscal distress. They also require the County Superintendent to incorporate that information into our analysis of budgets, interim reports, and the district's overall financial condition.

Ms. Monica Garcia, Board President  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
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We remind the District to submit any such documents to this office that are commissioned by the District (e.g., reports completed by the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team), or by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and/or a State control agency, and an internal audit division any time they are received by the District.

### **DISTRICT FOLLOW-UP REQUIREMENTS**

**In summary, the District's Board of Education is required to do the following for its 2018-19 First Interim, due to our office on or before December 17, 2018.**

- Address deficit spending in an updated FSP with Board Resolution,
- Make any necessary Board-approved adjustments to the 2018-19 budget, and adopt an updated, detailed FSP with Board Resolution,
- Continue to allocate any potential expenditure reductions to the appropriate account codes in its multiyear projections, instead of as a lump-sum amount,
- Any reductions that require negotiation with the District's bargaining units should be included only if those negotiations have been settled. Revenue enhancements that require approval by the District's voters, such as a parcel tax, cannot be considered until voter approval is obtained,
- Continue to monitor all FICS, facilitate resolution of 2018-19 projected negative ending net positions, and submit First Interim Reports for each FICS, either in SACS form or an alternate form. Written status reports on the 15 FICS and any new FICS with negative ending net position, should be submitted subsequently.
- Board-approve and submit the 2018-19 First Interim to the County Superintendent.

**The above requirements, particularly the multiyear projections without unallocated expenditure reductions, FSP with Board Resolution, and FICS resolution of negative ending net positions, will be crucial factors in our review and certification concurrence with the District's 2018-19 First Interim, due to the County Superintendent no later than December 17, 2018.**

### **CONCLUSION**

While the District has fulfilled the conditions for approval of the 2018-19 revised budget, the District must implement and monitor the updated FSP to ensure that required reserves are maintained as projected. LAUSD continues to show signs of fiscal distress. Our concerns are in alignment with the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team's (FCMAT) Indicators of fiscal insolvency in the areas of:

1. Deficit spending and failure to maintain adequate reserves and fund balance (6), and
2. Insufficient consideration of long-term bargaining agreement effects (7).

Ms. Monica Garcia, Board President  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
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While LACOE is approving the LAUSD budget, based on the information provided, we are looking for the Governing Board to take all necessary actions to balance the District's budget. The drastic reserve reduction continues to be alarming and of great concern to LACOE. Our previous letters have stated that should LAUSD's structural deficit spending trajectory continue, and the County Superintendent determines that a more intensive approach is necessary, the County Superintendent has the authority to assign a fiscal expert or a fiscal advisor with stay and rescind authority over board actions in order to stabilize the District's financial situation.

**As noted, the 2018-19 revised budget incorporates assigned ending fund balance for across-the-board salary increases for incomplete negotiations that are expected to exceed the projected state funded cost-of-living adjustment. As we have noted in previous letters, the use of one-time funding sources to cover ongoing salary expenditures is a key indicator of risk for potential insolvency.**

The Governing Board is ultimately responsible for ensuring that all local decisions support and promote the fiscal health of the organization. The County Superintendent will continue to work closely with the District Board of Education, Administration and staff to monitor the District's commitment to fiscal solvency. If you have questions regarding your District's budget approval, please call Keith Crafton at (562) 922-6131 or your Business Services Consultant, Teri Stockman at (562) 922-6135.

Sincerely,



Dr. Candi Clark  
Chief Financial Officer, Business Services  
Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)

CC/KDC/TSS

Ms. Monica Garcia, Board President  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
November 8, 2018  
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cc: Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D., Superintendent, LACOE  
Austin Beutner, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)  
Scott S. Price, Ph.D., Chief Financial Officer, LAUSD  
Pedro Salcido, Director, Finance Policy (LCAP contact), LAUSD  
Cheryl Simpson, Director, Budget Services and Financial Planning, LAUSD  
David Holmquist, Esq., General Counsel, LAUSD  
José J. Cole-Gutiérrez, Director, Charter Schools Division, LAUSD  
Robert Samples, Interim Director, Office of Labor Relations, LAUSD  
Jose R. Cantu, Ed.D., Assistant Chief Human Resources Officer, LAUSD  
Karla Gould, Personnel Director, LAUSD  
V. Luis Buendia, Controller, Accounting and Disbursements Division, LAUSD  
Joy Mayor, Deputy Controller, Accounting and Disbursements Division, LAUSD  
Margaret Lam, Deputy Budget Director, LAUSD  
Victoria Reyes, Assistant Budget Director, LAUSD  
Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Nick Schweizer, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Michael H. Fine, Chief Executive Officer, Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team  
Erika F. Torres, Ed.D., M.S.W., Deputy Superintendent, LACOE  
Arturo Valdez, Chief Academic Officer, LACOE  
Keith D. Crafton, LACOE  
Jeff Young, LACOE  
Octavio Castelo, LACOE  
Chris Burdy, LACOE  
Teri S. Stockman, LACOE  
Patricia Smith, LACOE  
Tracy Minor, LACOE



## Los Angeles County Office of Education

Serving Students ■ Supporting Communities ■ Leading Educators

Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.  
Superintendent

January 9, 2019

Los Angeles County  
Board of Education

Thomas A. Saenz  
President

James Cross  
Vice President

Candace Bond McKeever

Douglas R. Boyd

Alex Johnson

Gregory McGinity

Monte E. Perez

Ms. Monica Garcia, Board President  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5141

Dear Ms. Garcia:

Under Education Code (EC) Section 42131, the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) has completed a review of the Los Angeles Unified School District's (District) 2018-19 First Interim Report. Our analysis of the data provided indicates that the District may not meet its financial obligations for the current or two subsequent years without implementing budget reductions and/or a Board-approved Fiscal Stabilization Plan (FSP) that restore and maintain the required minimum Reserve for Economic Uncertainties (REU) for 2020-21. While we concur with the District's qualified certification, our office is taking action under EC 42131(b) to assign a team of fiscal experts to the District.

In the previous Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) letters, we have expressed great alarm and concern with the rapid deterioration of the District's fund balance and reserve levels. We have also expressed concerns with the District using one-time funding to cover ongoing expenditures absent a strong plan to balance the budget. LACOE's letters have also directed the District to develop a Fiscal Stabilization Plan that will address the projected deficit spending. In review of the First Interim and the FSP, we continue to be alarmed that the Governing Board has failed to present a financial report that maintains the minimum 1% reserve level in the current plus two subsequent years as required by law.

Because your projections indicate a 90.62% drop in reserve levels over a three-year period without an adequate plan to address the significant deficit spending, the District continues to demonstrate serious signs of fiscal distress that cannot be ignored. Our concerns are in alignment with the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team's (FCMAT) Indicators of Risk of Potential Insolvency. The areas of most concern are:

- Inability to consider long-term impacts of collective bargaining agreements;
- Staff unrest and/or low morale;
- Lack of a long-range facilities plan;
- Deficit spending and failure to maintain adequate reserves and fund balance;



Ms. Monica Garcia, Board President  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
January 9, 2019  
Page 2

- Lack of control and monitoring of total compensation as a percentage of total expenses; and
- Inattention to unfunded liabilities [OPEB].

Due to the distressed fiscal condition of the District, EC 42131(b) allows the County Superintendent to intervene and compel the District to implement certain measures or combination of measures to improve the fiscal condition of the District.

Effective immediately, I am assigning a fiscal expert team to the District. Dr. Jim Morris will lead the team's efforts within the District. Dr. Morris will report back to me and the LACOE Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Candi Clark, on the progress of the District. It is our expectation that the Governing Board will work with the LACOE fiscal expert team to implement any and all actions necessary to stabilize the fiscal condition of the District. LACOE will continue to look to the Governing Board to take a strong leadership role in resolving the District's fiscal challenges and do what is in the best interest of the students that you serve.

## **BACKGROUND**

In our letter dated November 8, 2018, the District's Governing Board was required to do the following no later than December 17, 2018:

- Address deficit spending in an updated FSP with Board Resolution;
- Make any necessary Board-approved adjustments to the 2018-19 budget, and adopt an updated, detailed FSP with Board Resolution;
- Continue to allocate any potential expenditure reductions to the appropriate account codes in the multi-year projection, instead of as a lump-sum amount;
- Any reductions that require negotiation with the District's bargaining units should be included only if those negotiations have been settled. Revenue enhancements that require approval by the District's voters, such as a parcel tax, cannot be considered until voter approval is obtained;
- Continue to monitor all Fiscally Independent Charter Schools (FICS), facilitate resolution of 2018-19 projected negative ending net positions, and submit First Interim Reports for each FICS, in either SACS form or an alternate form. Written status reports on the 15 FICS and any new FICS with negative ending net position, should be submitted subsequently; and
- Board-approve and submit the 2018-19 First Interim Report to the County Superintendent.

As required, the District submitted its General Fund 2018-19 First Interim Report, including an updated FSP and Board resolution. However, the Governing Board failed to adequately address its structural imbalance of deficit spending. As a result, the District filed a qualified budget certification. Any combination of enhanced revenues, reduced expenditures, or release of assigned

Ms. Monica Garcia, Board President  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
January 9, 2019  
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ending fund balance would have allowed the District to meet the 1.00 percent minimum requirement per State Criteria and Standards.

### **FISCAL STABILIZATION PLAN**

We noted in our review that the District's updated FSP includes the following reductions:

- \$42.9 million, or approximately 15 percent, for Central Office Reduction;
- \$5.0 million for Change in Procurement Cycle for uniforms;
- \$3.0 million for Attendance Incentive Program additional allocation discontinuance; and
- \$2.1 million for additional Central Office Reduction.

With this updated FSP, the Governing Board accepted the \$35.0 million for Administrator to Teacher Ratio (R2) penalties in 2019-20 and 2020-21 by assigning this amount in the ending fund balance. However, the Governing Board chose not to implement the previously identified reductions of \$6.0 million for Freeze on Travel, Cellphone and Equipment, and \$29.0 million, or approximately another 10 percent, for Central Office Reduction.

### **DEFICIT SPENDING AND RESERVES**

The District is projecting an operating surplus of \$113.3 million, representing 2.39 percent of the unrestricted General Fund's projected expenditures and other outgo for fiscal year 2018-19. The District then projects worsened operating deficits of \$201.9 million and \$176.5 million, representing 4.18 percent and 3.73 percent, for fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively. According to our review of the District's First Interim Report data and assumptions, and as confirmed by the District, the projected deficits are primarily due to revenue loss associated with declining enrollment, the increasing costs related to pensions, Special Education encroachment and facilities maintenance required minimum contribution.



The District's unrestricted General Fund ending balance and reserves are projected to decrease as a result of deficit spending, which is illustrated in the table below.

**Unrestricted General Fund Projection**

<b>(\$ millions)</b>	<b><u>2018-19</u></b>	<b><u>2019-20</u></b>	<b><u>2020-21</u></b>
Beginning Unrestricted General Fund Balance	\$1,863.2	\$1,976.5	\$1,774.6
Projected Deficit Spending	\$113.3	(\$201.9)	(\$176.5)
Ending Unrestricted General Fund Balance	<u>\$1,976.5</u>	<u>\$1,774.6</u>	<u>\$1,598.1</u>
Nonspendable	(\$27.6)	(\$27.6)	(\$27.6)
Commitments to Settlements	(\$174.6)	(\$87.6)	(\$0.0)
Assignments per Board	(\$1,019.3)	(\$1,230.2)	(\$1,499.7)
Reserve Amount	\$755.0	\$429.3	\$70.8
Reserve Percent	10.22%	5.71%	0.96%

We continue to be alarmed that the Governing Board is failing to recognize the long-term impact of the District's structural deficit spending and remain concerned that time-sensitive financial decisions are being postponed. Over the multi-year span, the unrestricted General Fund's reserve is projected to decrease from \$755.0 million to \$70.8 million, a decline of 90.62 percent. The deficit spending in 2019-20 and 2020-21 depletes reserves to below the State Criteria and Standards 1.00 percent required level in 2020-21. Therefore, we require that the District work with the LACOE fiscal expert team to address deficit spending in an updated FSP with Board Resolution to be submitted with its 2018-19 Second Interim Report, due to our office on or before March 18, 2019. As in prior letters, our recommendation is to seek ways to balance the budget through expenditure reductions, revenue enhancements, or a combination of the two.

**RESERVE FOR ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES (REU)**

The District's First Interim Report projects an REU of 10.22 percent for 2018-19, 5.71 percent for 2019-20, and 0.96 percent for 2020-21. Due to the District continuing to operate at the current projected deficit spending levels, the unrestricted General Fund ending balance and REU will be exhausted by the end of 2020-21. The year-to-year cumulative effects of reclassifying committed or assigned ending fund balances to salaries and employee benefits as labor settlements are reached

Ms. Monica Garcia, Board President  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
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results in increased expenditures and decreased reserve amounts. The First Interim Report that was approved by the Governing Board included a \$17.2 million increase in other assignments in 2020-21 when compared to the assignments included in the Revised Budget for the same year.

The District is required to update its FSP and include the necessary Board-approved adjustments to the 2018-19 budget and multi-year projections to ensure that the ending fund balances and REUs are restored and maintained at the required level.

### **DECLINING ENROLLMENT AND REDUCED STATE FUNDING**

The District's 2018-19 First Interim Report reflects declining enrollment from traditional schools and locally funded/affiliated charter schools with projected funded average daily attendance (ADA) of 471,450 for 2018-19, 458,936 for 2019-20, and 444,566 for 2020-21. The estimated impact of the declining enrollment on the District's projected funded ADA reflects a two-year loss totaling 26,884 ADA, representing a 5.70 percent decrease from the District's 2018-19 ADA. This rate of decline in enrollment, if continued as projected, represents a loss of revenue for the District in the current and future years. As previously recommended, the District must continue to assess and take immediate steps to adjust its staffing needs and develop a plan to optimize facility utilization given the projected ongoing decline in enrollment.

Declining enrollment districts with charter schools must also consider the effect of the movement of district ADA to district-authorized charter schools. ADA for students who attended a district non-charter the previous year, and who now attend a district-authorized charter, is deducted from prior year ADA for purposes of calculating declining enrollment ADA.

### **LABOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

According to the information provided in the District's First Interim Report, except for the comprehensive Health Benefits Agreement, Service Employees International Union, Associated Administrators Los Angeles, California School Employees Association, Teamsters, and District-represented settlements, the certificated union's and three classified unions' labor contract negotiations for 2017-18 and 2018-19 remain unsettled. However, potential increases have been calculated and incorporated into budgeted salary and benefit assignments of ending fund balance. Because labor costs make up a large portion of the District's budget, we remain concerned that any salary and benefit increase, if paid from reserves or other one-time resources, could adversely affect the financial condition of the District. We continue to caution the District that this approach of funding ongoing salary increases with one-time resources is not a best business practice.

This letter is a reminder, before the District's Governing Board takes any action on a proposed collective bargaining agreement, the District must meet the public disclosure requirements of Government Code Section 3547.5 and the California Code of Regulations Title V, Section 15449.

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The document used for this analysis was included in Informational Bulletin No. 4845, dated July 2, 2018, and is titled "2018-19 Forms for Assembly Bill (AB) 1200: Public Disclosure of Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreements." This document can be found at the following website:

<https://www.lacoe.edu/BusinessServices/DocumentsForms.aspx>

In addition, pursuant to Government Code Section 3540.2(a), a school district with a qualified or negative certification must allow the County Office at least 10 working days to review and comment on any proposed agreement between the exclusive representative and the public school employer before it is ratified.

### **DEBT ISSUANCE**

This letter also serves as a reminder of the statutory requirements placed on debt issuance by school districts with qualified or negative interim report certifications. These requirements are specifically addressed by EC Section 42133 (a).

### **COUNTY OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT**

Pursuant to the provisions of EC Section 1240(e), the County Superintendent is required to present an annual report to a school district's governing board and to the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding the fiscal solvency of any school district with a disapproved budget, qualified or negative interim certification during the current fiscal year. This County Office report will be issued to the District in June 2019.

### **FISCALLY INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS OVERSIGHT**

Authorizing districts are required, by EC Section 47604.32, to ensure each charter school under its authority complies with all reports required by law of charter schools, and to monitor the fiscal solvency of that charter school. Furthermore, EC Section 47604(c) specifies failure to comply with all oversight responsibility could result in a district losing its protection against liability for any nonprofit public benefit corporation charter school that the district has authorized.

Therefore, it is critical that charter schools' budgets and Interim Reports contain sufficient fiscal information to enable their authorizing districts to perform adequate review and analysis of the report as part of their fiscal oversight responsibilities. As part of this oversight responsibility, authorizers should request a rationale for all negative fund balances, for which the district would be held liable. Authorizing districts are urged to collect supporting data, in addition to the budget, from their charter schools similar to what districts submit to LACOE, including detailed assumptions and multi-year projections.

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Effective 2018-19, the District's Charter School Division no longer consolidates and reports the direct-funded charter schools' budgeted revenues and expenditures under SACS Form 09 (Charter Schools Special Revenue Fund) and SACS Form 62 (Charter Schools Enterprise Fund). These FICS complete and report the SACS forms directly to the District for routing to LACOE.

The District routed its 220+ FICS SACS Form 62 for 2018-19 July 1 Budget with 12 FICS having a 2018-19 negative ending net position totaling \$20.9 million. Subsequently, the District's 2017-18 Unaudited Actuals were submitted with 15 FICS having a 2017-18 negative ending net position totaling \$26.9 million. The District is required to continue to monitor all FICS, facilitate resolution of 2018-19 projected negative ending net positions, and submit 2018-19 Second Interim Reports for each FICS, in either SACS form or an alternate form. Written status reports on the 15 FICS and any new FICS with negative ending net position, should be submitted subsequently.

#### **SUBMISSION OF STUDIES, REPORTS, EVALUATIONS, AND/OR AUDITS**

EC Sections 42127 and 42127.6 require districts to submit to the County Superintendent any studies, reports, evaluations, or audits completed of the district that contain evidence that the district is showing fiscal distress. They also require the County Superintendent to incorporate that information into our analysis of budgets, interim reports, and the district's overall financial condition.

We remind the District to submit any such documents to this office that are commissioned by the District (e.g., reports completed by the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team), or by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and/or a State control agency, and an internal audit division any time they are received by the District.

We have obtained the District's Projected Financial Position Analysis, dated September 26, 2018, prepared by Houlihan Lokey Financial Advisors, Inc. We are also in receipt of the District's most recent fact finding report as it relates to negotiations with United Teachers Los Angeles.

#### **DISTRICT FOLLOW-UP REQUIREMENTS**

Because the District filed a qualified First Interim Report certification, the District's Governing Board is required to do the following for its 2018-19 Second Interim Report, due to our office on or before March 18, 2019.

- Work with the LACOE fiscal expert team;
- Address deficit spending in an updated FSP with Board Resolution restoring the minimum reserve requirements;
- Make any necessary Board-approved adjustments to the 2018-19 budget, and adopt an updated, detailed FSP with Board Resolution;

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- Continue to allocate any potential expenditure reductions to the appropriate account codes in its multi-year projections, instead of as a lump-sum amount;
- Any reductions that require negotiation with the District's bargaining units should be included only if those negotiations have been settled. Revenue enhancements that require approval by the District's voters, such as a parcel tax, cannot be considered until voter approval is obtained;
- Continue to monitor all FICS, facilitate resolution of 2018-19 projected negative ending net positions, and submit Second Interim Reports for each FICS, in either SACS form or an alternate form. Written status reports on the 15 FICS and any new FICS with negative ending net position, should be submitted subsequently; and
- Board-approve and submit the 2018-19 Second Interim Report to the County Superintendent.

The above requirements, particularly the multi-year projections without unallocated expenditure reductions, and FSP with Board Resolution, will be crucial factors in our review and certification concurrence with the District's 2018-19 Second Interim Report, due to the County Superintendent no later than March 18, 2019.

## CONCLUSION

The Governing Board is ultimately responsible for ensuring that all local decisions support and promote the fiscal health of the District. The LACOE fiscal expert team will work closely with the District's Governing Board, Administration and staff to monitor the District's commitment to fiscal solvency. If you have questions regarding your District's qualified interim, please call Dr. Candi Clark at (562) 922-6124 or Keith Crafton at (562) 922-6131.

Sincerely,



Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D  
Superintendent

CC/KDC/TSS:rc

cc: Austin Beutner, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)  
Scott S. Price, Ph.D, Chief Financial Officer, LAUSD  
Pedro Salcido, Director, Finance Policy, LAUSD  
Cheryl Simpson, Director, Budget Services and Financial Planning, LAUSD  
David Holmquist, Esq., General Counsel, LAUSD  
José J. Cole-Gutiérrez, Director, Charter Schools Division, LAUSD  
Robert Samples, Interim Director, Office of Labor Relations, LAUSD  
Jose R. Cantu, Ed.D., Assistant Chief Human Resources Officer, LAUSD

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Karla Gould, Personnel Director, LAUSD  
V. Luis Buendia, Controller, Accounting and Disbursements Division, LAUSD  
Joy Mayor, Deputy Controller, Accounting and Disbursements Division, LAUSD  
Margaret Lam, Deputy Budget Director, LAUSD  
Victoria Reyes, Assistant Budget Director, LAUSD  
Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Lupita Cortez Alcalá, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Caryn Moore, California Department of Education  
Betty T. Yee, California State Controller  
Michael H. Fine, Chief Executive Officer, Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team  
Erika F. Torres, Ed.D, M.S.W., Deputy Superintendent, LACOE  
Candi T. Clark, Ed.D, Chief Financial Officer, LACOE  
Vibiana Andrade, General Counsel, LACOE  
Jim Morris, Ed.D, LACOE  
Arturo Valdez, Chief Academic Officer, LACOE  
Keith D. Crafton, LACOE  
Jeff Young, LACOE  
Octavio Castelo, LACOE  
Jennifer L. Kirk, LACOE  
Teri S. Stockman, LACOE  
Patricia Smith, LACOE  
Tracy Minor, LACOE





Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>

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**MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019**

1 message

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**Cate Hurley** <cate.hurley@lacity.org>  
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>  
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Mon, Jan 14, 2019 at 7:01 AM

**Mayor Eric Garcetti**

SCNG: [With no movement over the weekend, L.A. teachers proceeding with Monday strike plan](#)  
NBC LOS ANGELES: [Union Says Los Angeles Teachers Will Go on Strike Monday](#)  
THE HILL: [Teachers strike a headache for Garcetti as he mulls presidential bid](#)  
LA TIMES: [FBI corruption probe goes beyond L.A. Councilman Jose Huizar to include other City Hall figures](#)  
CITY NEWS SERVICE: [FBI's Huizar Investigation Part Of Extensive Corruption Inquiry](#)  
NEW YORK MAGAZINE: [What 'Lanes' Will the 2020 Democratic Candidates Run In?](#)  
THE HILL: [Obama 'new blood' remark has different meaning for Biden](#)  
LA TIMES: [Kamala Harris draws crowds in L.A. amid buzz of a presidential run](#)  
KPBS: [Could Anti-Price Gouging Laws Slow Rising Rents?](#)

**Southern California News Group**

**With no movement over the weekend, L.A. teachers proceeding with Monday strike plan**  
By: David Rosenfeld

Without any new proposals from Los Angeles Unified School District officials coming over the weekend, the union representing 34,000 district educators is moving forward with a strike set for Monday morning, Jan. 14.

Calling the offer on Friday by district officials unacceptable, Alex Caputo-Pearl, United Teachers Los Angeles president, said the union was engaged in a "battle for the soul of education" at a news conference Sunday afternoon at union headquarters near downtown Los Angeles.

"We are more convinced than ever that the district won't move without a strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was flanked by roughly two dozen teachers, parents and students.

"Let's be clear, teachers do not want a strike. Teachers strike when they have no other recourse," he said.

Union leaders illustrated four demands that remained unresolved Sunday. They included a cap on class sizes, providing a full-time nurse in every school, reforming co-location policies and improving special education.

Arlene Inouye, bargaining chair for the union, called LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner "not an honest partner," who disrespected union leaders and mis-characterized their demands.

"We are ready, our members are ready and together we will win our legitimate and urgent contract demands," Inouye said.

Caputo-Pearl later called Beutner a "non educator, investment banker who is starving our schools and accelerating privatization. Now is the moment to push back on that," he said.

Among the union's primary demands is a pay raise of 6.5 percent effective July 2016. The district has offered a 6 percent raise divided between last school year and the current one.

The district also offered to provide a nurse at every school, but only for a single year, a proposal Caputo-Pearl called insufficient.

"There has never been a more urgent moment to use our power to push back than there is right now," he said. "It is time to reclaim the promise of public education for all of Los Angeles."

The typical teacher at LAUSD makes about \$80,000 per year. But that is still below educators at other big city school districts, an analysis of pay rates in 2017 found. Even with a pay raise of 6 percent, such as LAUSD administrators have offered, L.A. teachers would be closer to their peers in pay but not entirely equal.

Although Mayor **Eric Garcetti** urged the two sides to get together over the weekend in a last ditch attempt to reach a compromise, no such meeting took place and no additional offers were made since Friday.

*Mayor Eric Garcetti ✓@MayorOfLA*

*With no resolution in the negotiations between UTLA and LAUSD, teachers are set to strike tomorrow. I urge both parties to keep working to reach an agreement as soon as possible so teachers and students can get back to the classroom.*

Caputo-Pearl said the teacher strike was not only to fight for educators but also students and parents. He said the next few weeks might be difficult on personal lives, but it would be worth it. For parents wondering what to do, he told them to rally with teachers on the picket lines.

"For years, our schools have been neglected. Now is the moment to take action," he said.

Just how long do they anticipate the strike lasting? Caputo-Pearl said they were prepared to strike for as long as it takes for their demands to be met, a statement that was met with resounding applause by the union members behind him.

LAUSD officials expressed disappointment with UTLA's strike plans and reminded parents that the district's schools will remain open this week. Beutner on Friday accused the union of failing to compromise on demands that haven't changed since negotiations began nearly two years ago, and which he claims the district simply cannot afford.

The district issued a statement via social media Sunday night, noting that district campuses on Monday "will be open providing every student with a safe and welcoming learning environment," although early education centers will only be open for special-needs students, and state preschool sites will be closed.

"Los Angeles Unified did not want a strike and offered UTLA leaders a \$565 million package to significantly reduce class sizes, add nearly 1,200 educators in schools and provide all UTLA members with 6 percent salary raises. Los Angeles Unified remains committed to contract negotiations and will continue to work around the clock to find solutions to end the strike which will hurt students, families and communities most in need throughout Los Angeles," according to the district.

### **NBC Los Angeles**

#### **Union Says Los Angeles Teachers Will Go on Strike Monday**

A strike by tens of thousands of teachers in Los Angeles, the nation's second-largest school district, is all but inevitable starting Monday after the two sides did not renew negotiations over the weekend.

Talks broke down Friday when the teachers' union rejected as "woefully inadequate" a new offer from the LA Unified School District. With no new discussions scheduled, pickets are likely to begin at 7 a.m. as teachers stand firm on sticking points including higher pay and smaller class sizes.

"As you know, a strike is a last resort," United Teachers Los Angeles secretary and negotiations team co-chair Ilene Inouye said "We have been in bargaining for the past 21 months and have come to this point. The reason we're here without an agreement has been pretty clear to our bargaining team... We have not had an honest bargaining partner."

Schools will stay open if a walkout happens. The district, with 640,000 students, has hired hundreds of substitutes to replace teachers and others who leave for picket lines.

The union has said it was "irresponsible" to hire subs and called on parents to consider keeping students home or join marchers if a strike goes forward.

The district's latest offer included adding nearly 1,200 teachers, counselors, nurses and librarians to schools, reducing class sizes by two students, and capping class sizes to between 32 and 39 students, depending on age and curriculum.

The offer also included the district's previously proposed 6 percent salary increase over the first two years of a three-year contract.

The district issued a statement via social media Sunday night, noting that district campuses on Monday "will be open providing every student with a safe and welcoming learning environment," although early education centers will only be open for special-needs students, and state preschool sites will be closed.

"Los Angeles Unified did not want a strike and offered UTLA leaders a \$565 million package to significantly reduce class sizes, add nearly 1,200 educators in schools and provide all UTLA members with 6 percent salary raises," the statement continued. "Los Angeles Unified remains committed to contract negotiations and will continue to work around the clock to find solutions to end the strike which will hurt students, families and communities most in need throughout Los Angeles."



The union, United Teachers Los Angeles, wants a 6.5 percent hike that would take effect all at once and be retroactive to fiscal 2017. Union officials said some of the district's proposals would expire after a year, calling it disrespectful.

"We are at an impasse," union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said Friday.

District officials said it was imploring the union to reconsider, adding that it rejected the new offer without proposing a counteroffer.

"A strike will harm the students, families and communities we serve, and we have a responsibility to resolve the situation without a strike," the district tweeted.

A majority of UTLA's 35,000 members are expected to join the work stoppage.

Abram van der Fluit, a Los Angeles teacher opposed to the strike, said in a statement Sunday that colleagues who agree with him are "fearful" of speaking out against the union. He's a former UTLA member and currently part of the California Teachers Empowerment Network, which describes itself as a nonpartisan information source for teachers and the public.

"I don't support the rationale for the strike as articulated by UTLA," he said. "I don't believe that the reasons for the strike should be our priorities, as teachers."

Van der Fluit, a 20-year LAUSD veteran who teaches high school biology, said the union should prioritize other issues including creating access to vocational education classes and providing options for students who want to pursue careers that don't necessarily require a college degree.

Much of the acrimony between the district and the union centers around the new superintendent, Austin Beutner. The investment banker and former Los Angeles deputy mayor took the job last year without any experience in education.

The union argues that Beutner is trying to privatize the district, encouraging school closures and flipping public schools into charter schools. Charters are privately operated public schools that compete with the school system for students and the funds they bring in.

Beutner has said his plan to reorganize the district would improve services to students and families.

The teachers are tapping into a shift in public sentiment that supports better wages for educators that came with a "Red4Ed" movement that began last year in West Virginia, where a strike resulted in a raise. The movement spread to Oklahoma, Kentucky, Colorado, Arizona and Washington state.

As the second largest school district in the nation, LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers that would not be affected by the strike. LAUSD says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools will be impacted by the strike.

About 80 percent of the district's students come from low-income households and qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch, and around 25 percent are learning English. The district says it intends to keep all of its schools open in the event of a strike while it also continues to serve around 1 million meals each day.

The district also says it intends to attempt to keep some instruction going for students during strike. Four hundred substitutes have been hired for the task and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned. However, with more than 25,000 teachers expected to strike and at least 31,000 UTLA members set to walk out, LAUSD is expected in many cases to do no more than supervise students during the day in auditoriums and other large spaces.

LAUSD has established an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300 to answer questions about the planned strike and its possible impact.

#### *Picketing, Rallies Begin Monday Morning*

Picketing is scheduled to begin Monday at 7:30 a.m., coinciding with another news conference at John Marshall High School, [3939 Tracy St.](#), according to the UTLA.

A rally and march is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Monday starting at Grand Park on Spring Street in front of City Hall, heading downtown to LAUSD headquarters, [333 South Beaudry Ave.](#)

There, more picketing by teachers, parents and students is set for between 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in front of Marianna Avenue Elementary School, [4215 Gleason St.](#) union officials said.

The proceedings will wrap up with a 5 p.m. news conference at the UTLA building on [3303 Wilshire Blvd.](#), organizers said.

The UTLA said it will stream most events live on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

### *Calls for Negotiations*

On Sunday, United Way of Greater Los Angeles released a letter signed by a number of civic leaders that urged both sides to come together.

"This crisis cannot be solved by the Los Angeles Unified School District alone. LAUSD is on the brink of fiscal insolvency - a stark reality that has been acknowledged by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and other elected officials, UCLA Education Professor Pedro Noguera, President Obama's former Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, several forecasts commissioned by multiple LAUSD superintendents, and by the Los Angeles Times," the letter read.

"...We urge the teachers union and the school district to reach an agreement and avert a strike, and to put their collective efforts toward securing resources for our teachers and students without devastating the finances of the district. This must include resolving the issue of the district's unsustainable pension liabilities."

The city of Los Angeles has established a web site, at [www.lamayor.org/StudentsAndFamilies](http://www.lamayor.org/StudentsAndFamilies), describing city resources available to students and parents during a strike.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that while he is encouraging both sides to continue talking to avoid a strike, if a walkout occurs, the city will bolster staffing and resources at city recreation centers, libraries and Family Source Centers "to support families with additional options."

Meanwhile, L.A. County Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Hilda Solis filed a motion on Friday seeking to identify up to \$10 million in county funds that could be directed to the LAUSD to enhance health care for students.

The motion will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday.

The county operates dozens of school-based health centers on LAUSD campuses, and the County Department of Mental Health also provides outpatient mental health services and crisis counseling throughout LAUSD.

"A strike would disrupt the lives of so many students and their families. L.A. County is stepping up to help LAUSD because it is incumbent upon all of us to help find a way out of this impending crisis," Ridley-Thomas said.

*Also covered by: [The Hollywood Reporter](#), [Los Feliz Ledger](#), [KCET](#)*

### **The Hill**

#### **Teachers strike a headache for Garcetti as he mulls presidential bid**

By: Reid Wilson

As Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** (D) considers whether to jump in the fast-growing race for the Democratic presidential nominee, some of his advisers are concerned that a looming teachers strike in his own backyard could keep him on the sidelines for weeks.

Garcetti is set to decide this month whether he will launch a bid for president.

But that decision is likely to be shelved if teachers in the Los Angeles Unified School District, the second-largest school district in the country, with almost half a million students, go on strike on Monday.

In internal debates about how to build a campaign, Garcetti's aides have acknowledged he cannot possibly launch a bid while teachers in his own city are on the picket line, according to sources involved in the conversations.

Talks between the school district and United Teachers Los Angeles, the union that represents 32,000 teachers and staff, broke down Friday when union negotiators rejected the district's latest offer.

The district had offered to cap classroom sizes and to raise teacher salaries by 6 percent in the next year. Union President Alex Caputo-Pearl told reporters the raise would only apply to one year. The union has asked for a permanent 6.5 percent salary hike, among other demands.

The timing of what would be the first teacher's strike in Los Angeles in 30 years could not be more of a headache for Garcetti, who has been hinting at a presidential run for more than a year.

Making matters even more frustrating to the second-term mayor is the fact that he has little power to exercise. The city has no control over the Los Angeles Unified School District, an independent body overseen by an elected school board that extends beyond the Los Angeles city limits to 25 other cities.

Garcetti has been working behind the scenes to strike a last-minute deal, aides said, to ensure that schools open on Monday.

"Mayor Garcetti has been speaking with both sides and has urged them to find common ground that avoids a strike and its impact on our kids. He has offered himself, his staff and City Hall to help," said Yusef Robb, Garcetti's spokesman.

California political observers say the strike underscores the trouble any mayor would face when they run for president: Every city has its problems, and Los Angeles is no exception.

"It's a tough choice to focus on appealing to a national audience and risk alienating key constituencies in Los Angeles," said Anthony Reyes, a Democratic strategist based in Los Angeles. "How do you speak about a greater vision for the nation when there are still problems back in the city that haven't been taken care of? The strike just makes this contrast way too stark for his own good."

John Pitney, a political scientist at Claremont McKenna College and a former spokesman for the Republican National Committee, said a short-term strike would not imperil Garcetti's campaign by itself, though it could prove a nuisance.

"It's a midsized problem. At very least, it dominates his time and attention, meaning less for a presidential campaign," Pitney said. "And labor trouble is seldom good in Democratic primaries."

But Pitney said it shines a light on the problems Los Angeles faces, problems that would become cudgels against Garcetti if he begins to catch fire. A teachers strike coupled with rising homelessness and a statewide housing crisis that has hit Los Angeles could expose Garcetti to charges that the most vulnerable citizens in his city have been left behind.

"Homelessness will be a particular political burden for him. From the left, other candidates could accuse him of failing our most vulnerable people," Pitney said. "And if he were the nominee, the attack ads from the right would practically write themselves. One can picture grainy footage of homeless encampments and scary-looking people wandering the streets."

Garcetti has laid the groundwork for a potential campaign. He spent the midterms visiting early primary states to campaign for Democratic candidates, and his Democratic Midterm Victory Fund raised more than \$2 million, some of which went to state Democratic Party organizations.

Supporters have set up a PAC aimed at wooing him into the race. And Garcetti has been traveling since Election Day to promote Accelerator for America, a nonprofit group meant to promote opportunity zones in cities across the country.

Garcetti's team promoted a survey conducted for the nonprofit by Fred Yang, the prominent Democratic pollster who worked for his mayoral campaigns.

Robb, Garcetti's spokesman, declined to say when Garcetti would make a decision about whether to seek the presidency.

## **LA Times**

### **FBI corruption probe goes beyond L.A. Councilman Jose Huizar to include other City Hall figures**

By: Dave Zahniser, Emily Alpert Reyes, and Joel Rubin

An ongoing FBI investigation into Los Angeles City Councilman Jose Huizar is part of a broader corruption probe in which agents are seeking possible evidence involving Councilman Curren Price and a senior aide to Council President Herb Wesson, as well as several other city officials and business figures, according to a federal search warrant.

The warrant, which was filed in federal court in November but reviewed by The Times on Saturday, said agents were seeking evidence related to an investigation into an array of potential crimes, including bribery, kickbacks, extortion, and money laundering involving 13 people.

Agents served the warrant on Google in July for information from a private email account for Ray Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety for Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, according to the warrant. Chan also served as a deputy mayor for economic development under Garcetti.

Along with Chan and Huizar, those named in the warrant included Price, who represents part of South L.A.; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Wesson; Joel Jacinto, a Garcetti appointee who serves on the city's Board of Public Works; and other City Hall aides who have worked for Huizar.

The warrant does not say the FBI has gathered evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document, and there were no records attached to the warrant saying what evidence, if any, was discovered in Chan's email account.

No one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation.

But the court documents lay out a more expansive FBI investigation into City Hall than has previously been revealed.

Price said Saturday that he does not know anything about the warrant. He also said he had not been contacted by the FBI.

Jacinto told The Times he was unaware he had been mentioned in a federal search warrant. He said neither he nor his wife, who is also named in the warrant, had been contacted by investigators or received subpoenas seeking records or testimony.

"I don't know what it's about, so I can't really comment," Jacinto said.

None of the others named in the warrant could be reached for comment Saturday. An FBI spokeswoman declined to comment.

Huizar's attorneys, Vicki Podberesky and Mary Carter Andruess, did not address the warrant's contents but released a statement Saturday in response to questions from The Times saying that "Huizar and his staff are focused on serving all the residents in Council District 14 and continuing to advance citywide efforts."

Chan, who retired from city employment in 2017, declined to say whether he had received a federal grand jury subpoena when contacted by The Times in November.

The first sign of an FBI investigation into City Hall occurred Nov. 7 when FBI agents hauled an array of materials from Huizar's home and office, including a cardboard box with the word "fundraising" on it. The FBI declined to discuss its investigation but confirmed that the Internal Revenue Service, which looks into unreported income, was involved.

The warrant was first reported in a tweet late Saturday by Seamus Hughes, a counterterrorism expert who is currently deputy director of the Program on Extremism at George Washington University. The document is publicly available on the federal court's online records-retrieval system.

Much of the agents' focus centered on Huizar. Agents were seeking "all financial records" relating to the councilman and his mother and brother, Salvador, according to the warrant. The FBI also wanted "all records relating to projects in and around Los Angeles" in which Huizar, his staff or several other men were involved in "acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes."

The warrant also named three companies described as "foreign investors" and sought records relating to involvement by the companies or other foreign investors in development projects in and around Los Angeles.

At least one of those companies was listed on a document that was linked to Chan's email account and which appeared to be a long list of business deals in which Chan was involved. The warrant sought any information related to the document.

The agents also wanted records relating to fundraising for Bishop Mora Salesian High School, which Huizar attended as a student and where his wife later worked as a fundraiser; Proposition HHH, a local ballot initiative that raises funds for homeless housing developments; and "other fundraising expeditions/campaign contributions."

The Times reported last month that Huizar personally asked companies that did business at City Hall to donate to Salesian and assigned his staff to help with the effort while his wife worked at the school. During Richelle Huizar's employment at Salesian, money came in to the school from real estate developers, billboard companies, engineering firms and others who were seeking or had received favorable votes from her husband, according to interviews with donors and documents obtained by The Times.

The three foreign companies named in the warrant donated to Salesian's annual gala, according to the documents.

Greenland USA, which was one of the most generous, is one of the three foreign investors named in the warrant. The company is developing the Metropolis project, which consists of four towers along the 110 Freeway in downtown Los Angeles. In December 2014, Huizar and his City Council colleagues approved up to \$18.7 million in financial aid for the Hotel Indigo, which is part of Greenland's project.

The other two companies, Oceanwide and Hazens, are developing multistory projects on Figueroa Street in the downtown section of Huizar's district.



In addition, at least one political action committee has received a subpoena from a federal grand jury seeking information on two men with City Hall ties — lobbyist Morrie Goldman and Art Gastelum, the owner of a Pasadena-based construction management firm — along with Huizar and his wife.

*Also covered by: [LA Taco](#)*

## **City News Service FBI's Huizar Investigation Part Of Extensive Corruption Inquiry**

The FBI investigation into Los Angeles City Councilman Jose Huizar is but the tip of an iceberg into a broader inquiry that includes Councilman Curren Price, a senior aide to Council President Herb Wesson, city officials and other business figures, it was reported Sunday.

The Los Angeles Times, based on its review of the search warrant filed in federal court in November, reported Saturday that the scope of the investigation is much bigger than previously thought.

No one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation.

Price told the Times on Saturday that he does not know anything about the warrant and added that he had not been contacted by the FBI.

The Times reported that none of the others named in the warrant -- Ray Chen, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety for Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Deron Williams, chief of staff to Wesson, could be reached for comment.

And an FBI spokeswoman declined to comment.

The warrant said agents were seeking evidence related to an investigation into a cluster of potential crimes that include bribery, kickbacks, extortion and money laundering involving 13 people.

Chan, who retired from city employment in 2017, declined to say whether he had received a federal grand jury subpoena, when contacted by The Times in November.

The warrant also named three companies described as "foreign investors," The Times reported, and sought out records relating to involvement by the companies or other foreign investors in development projects in and around Los Angeles.

FBI agents also wanted records relating to fundraising for Bishop Mora Salesian High School, which Huizar, attended as a student and where his wife, Richelle, later worked as a fundraiser.

The FBI searched Huizar's City Hall office in November, with at least a dozen agents carrying out boxes, bags or rolling suitcases of potential evidence.

Huizar's home and a field office were also the target of searches by FBI agents serving a court-authorized warrant.

After the agents carried out the evidence in a single-file line from the City Hall office, an agent checked whether the office door was locked.

The City Hall search lasted around five hours.

Agents also went to a private residence on Britannia Street in Boyle Heights and to an address in the 2000 block of First Street, also in Boyle Heights.

Huizar and his wife have both listed the Britannia Street residence as their home address with the State Bar of California, and the councilman has a field office at the First Street location.

Huizar also has field offices in Eagle Rock and El Sereno, but those locations were not searched.

Huizar was also named in two lawsuits filed by two former employees.

One of the suits accuses him of doctoring his schedule to hide certain meetings from the media, along with other ethics violations, including that his staff was pressured to work during city time on the campaign of his wife, who is running in the 2020 election to succeed Huizar in the 14th District.

After the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition passed a motion in December calling on Huizar to resign, Huizar's

attorney, Stephen J. Kaufman, said: "Councilman Huizar is focused on serving all the residents in Council District 14, as well as advancing citywide efforts."

Huizar has served on the City Council since 2005 but is prevented from running again due to term limits when his current term expires in 2020.

Appeared in: [Telemundo](#)

## New York Magazine

### What 'Lanes' Will the 2020 Democratic Candidates Run In?

By: Ed Kilgore

Recent Democratic presidential nominating contests have been relatively simple. The 2000 (Gore versus Bradley) and 2016 (Clinton versus Sanders) primary battles were almost entirely two-candidate affairs. 2008 quickly devolved to a two-candidate fight between Obama and Clinton by the end of January. The 2004 competition was all but over after John Kerry won both Iowa and New Hampshire, and among the viable candidates, only John Edwards lasted until March. There were all sorts of interesting fights underneath the surface in all of these contests, but nothing that required three-dimensional chess to understand. In most years, Establishment versus Insurgent was about as deep as you had to get.

The 2020 Democratic presidential race, however, is shaping up as a vast and complicated battleground with many viable and even more dark-horse candidates. Inevitably, both campaign operatives and political observers will have to analyze the field in terms of sub-contests between clusters of candidates pursuing particular constituencies. When Republicans had a similar situation in 2016, with 16 serious candidates in the fray, the metaphor of "lanes" in which such clusters competed for oxygen and viability before the deal went down became nearly ubiquitous. As early as March 2015 — before Donald Trump entered the race — the Washington Post's Phillip Bump was slicing and dicing the field in terms of five "lanes" with different candidates competing for supremacy, with some transcending any one lane.

Bump had Scott Walker, Ted Cruz and Mike Huckabee as the leaders in the tea party lane; Walker, Huckabee and Jeb Bush as the top three in the "evangelical" lane; Bush and Chris Christie dominating the "moderate/establishment" lane; Walker and Bush doing best in the "very conservative" lane; and Rand Paul pretty much alone in a harder-to-discern "libertarian" lane.

Trump came along and scrambled these lanes and helped croak several candidacies. By February 2016, Morning Consult editor Reid Wilson posited just three lanes:

The five remaining candidates in the race are competing for constituencies who might conveniently be characterized as establishment voters, values voters and change voters.

Wilson suggested that Marco Rubio was fighting with John Kasich in the establishment lane; Ted Cruz was battling to subdue Ben Carson for supremacy among values voters; and Trump has the newly defined "change" lane to himself. Eventually, of course, all the "establishment" candidates vanished and Trump's final battle was with Ted Cruz, who looked like an also-ran in the tea party lane in the early going. And in the end, the candidate who didn't fit into any preexisting lane won the nomination and the presidency, casting doubt on the whole construction.

How might the chattering classes slice and dice the 2020 Democratic field? There are several ways to look at it:

1. *Ideological lanes*: Bernie Sanders will anchor the progressive lane, with potential competition from Elizabeth Warren, Tulsi Gabbard, Jeff Merkley and Sherrod Brown. If there's a moderate lane, Joe Biden will be the pace-setter, with dark-horse House members John Delaney and Seth Moulton, former governor John Hickenlooper, and possibly Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, all following in his wake. Down the road, Amy Klobuchar and Beto O'Rourke might appeal to moderate voters and opinion-leaders if Biden doesn't run or does poorly. Kirsten Gillibrand, Cory Booker, and Pete Buttigieg are hard to pigeonhole ideologically. They, along with O'Rourke, Warren, Klobuchar, and multiple dark-horses (including 2004 nominee John Kerry) have potential as "party unity" candidates — a lane that tends to form late in the nomination cycle.

2. *Racial/ethnic/gender lanes*: The size of the likely 2020 field means multiple candidates from demographic groups that are rarely represented in presidential contests. There's never been a Democratic primary field with more than one viable woman or African-American. Gabbard, Gillibrand, Klobuchar, and Warren could create a "women's lane" in theory. Booker and Harris could battle for African-American votes, beginning in the early South Carolina primary. Julián Castro and Garcetti could attract the attention of Latino voters. And although it's a sentiment expressed more in private than in public, there's a constituency for the idea that Democrats need a white male to beat Trump — especially someone who can appeal to Rust Belt white working-class voters. Joe Biden and Sherrod Brown could wind up competing in a white working-class lane of their own.

3. *Generational lanes*: Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Mike Bloomberg and John Kerry are all potential

Democratic candidates who are (or in Warren's case, will soon be) in their 70s. That makes virtually everyone else a possible "youth candidate." Gabbard, Pete Buttigieg, and California congressman Eric Swalwell are in their thirties; Booker, Castro, Garcetti, and O'Rourke are in their 40s. If Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez had reached the constitutionally minimum age of 35, she might be a compelling candidate for the hard-to-mobilize, but sizable, millennial constituency.

4. *Fame lanes*: In a big field like 2020's, less-well-known candidates will inevitably battle with each other for the media attention the celebrity candidates take for granted. In a social media era, fame can arrive quickly (as Ocasio-Cortez has demonstrated). So perhaps one or two of the candidates you have never heard of can strike name-ID gold before things get really serious.

5. *The electability lane*: Depending on all sorts of factors such as the objective condition of the country and Trump's relative popularity, the Democratic nominating contest could revolve around evidence and impressions about various candidates' ability to beat the incumbent. Several proto-candidates, including Biden, Brown and O'Rourke, have nascent "electability" arguments that could grow powerful if Democrats begin to worry the 2020 general election will be as close as the last one. General election trial heats testing this or that candidate against Trump could become important, despite the bad experience Democrats had with trusting 2016 polls showing Hillary Clinton handily beating the mogul. Very particular electoral college arguments for electability — e.g., Sherrod Brown's popularity in Ohio — could matter in a close nomination race.

6. *Luck lanes*: The hardest thing to anticipate and adjust to are the fortuitous events that shake up nomination contests before and just after voters begin voting. If, for example, both Biden and Sanders — who lead most early polls — decide not to run, everything could change. The millstone Elizabeth Warren is trying to shrug off involving the essentially silly "issue" of her claimed Native American ancestry is an example of variables that are hard to calculate in advance. Whoever does best in critical moments of the nominating contest could rise to the top of the charts with a bullet. It's impossible to know in advance.

And that's the key thing to keep in mind when contemplating efforts to neatly classify the Democratic field. The one thing we should have learned from the 2016 GOP contest is that every rule can be broken. Going into that contest, political scientists had largely concluded that party elites pre-control presidential nominations. Trump blew up that supposition, which is part of the reason so many potential Democratic challengers to him are standing in line for 2020 in what some have labeled the "Why Not Me?" race. The primaries may surprise us, and there's even a chance no one will have the nomination nailed down before Democrats gather for their convention in July. The "lanes" surviving candidates would traverse in the first truly deliberative Democratic convention since 1952 are impossible to anticipate. So perhaps we should treat it as a wide-open highway.

## **The Hill**

### **Obama 'new blood' remark has different meaning for Biden**

By: Amie Parnes

Former President Obama's talk about how politics need "new blood" is being seen as a blow to Joe Biden, the former vice president that Obama did not back to succeed him in 2016.

Sources close to both men describe Obama and Biden as friends who share an admiration and respect for one another.

But they also acknowledge recent remarks like the one Obama made this week in Hawaii represent a sort of threat to Biden, who has told allies in recent days that he's likely to enter the 2020 presidential race.

Obama was speaking broadly about the need for new blood in politics, not specifically the need for new blood in the Democratic Party.

But coming on the heels of Obama's meeting with former Rep. Beto O'Rourke (Texas), a rising Democratic star who most political observers see as competing with Biden for a slice of the primary electorate, it also sent a signal to the wider political world.

The remark and the burgeoning flirtation between Obama's political network and O'Rourke also stings Biden given the 2016 campaign, when Obama backed Hillary Clinton and nudged the vice president away from the race, insiders say.

"The president loves this guy, loves Joe, thinks the world of him. He would go in a battle ditch with Joe but that's different than giving his brand to him," one ally of Obama's said in describing the political dynamic and the former president's actions.

"He has an incredible soft spot for him. And I'm sure he'll do everything he can to make Joe feel good, but he won't come out and make Joe his candidate," the ally said. "And I think that hurts Joe."

"There's always been a fragility to their relationship," one former administration aide added, acknowledging some rocky

moments.

Eric Schultz, the longtime White House aide who serves as a senior adviser to Obama, said the former president "thinks the world" of Biden and "they remain genuinely good friends today."

"He has said many times over that the best decision he made in his career was to select Vice President Biden as his running mate," Schultz said.

A source close to Obama also added that the two men speak "fairly regularly — a lot more than any potential 2020 candidate" and that the two catch up in person from time to time. To that point, Biden came to Obama's office holiday party in Washington last month, the source said.

At the same time, there have been some sensitivities along the way. Biden, for example, saw Obama's decision to name Clinton as his secretary of State — after a brutal 2008 primary when Obama upset Clinton to win the nomination — as intentional, the aide said.

"He always felt like it was a decision that set her up to be the nominee and I know it stung afterward," the administration aide said.

In Biden's book, "Promise Me, Dad: A Year of Hope, Hardship, and Purpose," which came out last year, Biden wrote that Obama and his team told him he couldn't beat Clinton.

Biden writes about having lunch with Obama at the White House in August of 2015, when the then-president asked if he was planning a campaign.

"Mr. President, I'm not ready to make up my mind," Biden recalls telling Obama. "I'm taking it one day at a time. If we do decide to go, we'll decide in time to be viable."

But Biden added, "The president was not encouraging."

Days later, Biden writes, "a couple of people on President Obama's political team were telling us this race just wasn't winnable for me."

"There was usually a preamble: We're very protective of the vice president. We don't want to see Joe get hurt. We can only imagine what he's going through right now," Biden said in the book. "But they were not subtle. They asked [senior Biden advisers] Steve [Ricchetti] and Mike [Donilon] to consider the incredible historical forces around Barack Obama in 2008, when he ran against the Clinton machine and still just barely won. And if she almost beat us, they implied, she will definitely beat you."

In the last two years, sources say Biden has told anyone who would listen that he would have beaten Trump, and that he hopes Obama now realizes that.

And while he understands that Obama won't come out and endorse him in the primary if he decides to run — the former president has said publicly that he plans to stay neutral — there is still a feeling of "annoyance," particularly because Biden has been so loyal to the former president, according to one source.

It's not as if Obama has been stiff-arming Biden for the last two years.

They had a very public outing last summer when the two men had a reunion of sorts at a Georgetown bakery.

But sources familiar with the dynamic between the two men said their public lunch — which was plastered all over social media and news sites — didn't come about out of the blue.

The lunch came on the heels of news reports that Obama had met with potential 2020 candidates including Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), and Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** to offer up advice.

Last month, after it was reported that Obama also met with O'Rourke, Vanity Fair reported that Biden was "said to be less than thrilled."

The story said it wasn't so much that Obama took a meeting with O'Rourke, who some have called the next Obama. It was more about the fact that Obama was meeting with potential 2020 contenders while Biden was still weighing whether or not to enter the race.

Bill Russo, Biden's spokesman, said the storyline was "unequivocally false. Period."



But the Obama ally said it would make sense if Biden was at least a little irked.

"Beto takes away from Biden and I think a lot of people in Biden World know that," the ally said. "Beto is without a doubt in the top 5 [potential Democratic contenders] and Obama helped get him there."

One Biden ally who hopes to work on a future campaign by the former vice president said any annoyance is overblown.

"As a unit, we understand Barack Obama has a job to do," the Biden ally said. "He has always talked about new people entering the political process. That's how he got in. ... Just because he's willing to listen to other people doesn't mean he's endorsing any of them."

The Obama ally agreed, saying the former president has been "incredibly public about his support for Joe."

"He'll do just about anything for him," the ally said. "But he backs the party, not the person. He has an easy out."

## **LA Times**

### **Kamala Harris draws crowds in L.A. amid buzz of a presidential run**

By: Michael Finnegan

For Nicki Mitchell of Pomona, there was one good reason to come hear U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris of California talk about her memoir Sunday afternoon at a theater in Los Angeles.

"I'm seeing it as an opportunity to see the next president," said Mitchell, a high school counselor.

Harris hasn't announced if she will seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020. But the likelihood that she will join the race soon was the main lure for more than 1,200 Californians who flocked to her two Los Angeles events on Sunday.

After stops in San Francisco, New York and Washington, Harris wrapped up her five-day book tour with a reading of her new children's book at the Grove shopping mall, followed by a conversation on stage at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre about her just-released memoir. By all appearances, the events were as much about preparing to run for president as they were about selling books.

Moderated by author Cleo Wade, the talk about Harris' memoir blended the personal and the political. The senator recalled the blind date when she met her husband, Los Angeles lawyer Douglas Emhoff, and reminisced about the "warrior" nature of her late mother, a breast cancer researcher and civil rights activist. She compared American democracy in the era of President Trump to a house during a natural disaster.

"Some of the shingles are falling off, but the house is still standing," she said.

The event, sponsored by Writers Bloc Presents, cost \$41 per ticket, which came with a copy of the senator's memoir, "The Truths We Hold." Taking friendly questions from a director's chair on stage, Harris was conversational and warmly received by the left-leaning audience.

Her mocking of Trump's demand for a border wall was one of her biggest laugh lines. She recalled prosecuting transnational criminal organizations when she was California attorney general, saying in a tone of disbelief: "That wall ain't going to stop them."

Not everyone saw a president-in-waiting. Sandy Richman, a Westside fashion consultant, likes Harris, but said it was too soon for her to run for president. "I mean she hasn't been a senator that long," she said.

Following the custom of White House contenders who use book launches to promote their candidacies before formally announcing their campaigns, Harris, 54, has enjoyed a burst of free publicity on national talk shows, including ABC's "The View" and "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" on CBS.

Colbert was one of many interviewers who asked if she would be running for president.

"I might," she responded with a smile as the audience cheered.

Harris dodged the question of whether reports that she plans to announce her candidacy on Martin Luther King Jr. Day were accurate, saying only that Americans should always honor the civil rights leader.

"Superheroes Are Everywhere," her children's book that she read aloud at the Barnes & Noble at the Grove, echoes her political speeches in places. One passage pays tribute to late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and other civil

rights icons.

"They fought in court because they knew that people aren't always treated equally, but should be," she read to a couple hundred admirers packed in the children's section, including a cluster of toddlers on the floor.

The daughter of immigrants from India and Jamaica, Harris is one of several women in Congress laying ground to seek the Democratic presidential nomination.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii are already running, and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York is expected to announce her candidacy soon. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota is also weighing whether to run.

Alma Delin of North Hills showed up at the Grove event in a black T-shirt reading, "The Future is Female."

"In other countries, there are female presidents — why not the U.S.?" she asked.

Harris is one of a few Californians who might jump into the race, including Rep. Eric Swalwell of Dublin and Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**.

Among those in the crowd Sunday at the Grove was Ryan Damodaran of Burbank. Like Harris, he is the son of an immigrant from Chennai, India.

"You don't see a lot of Indians in such prominent roles in the country," he said. "She has such a strong voice, and we need more young voices in the Democratic Party, and I think she can be the face of the future."

Damodaran, who is in entertainment marketing, was carrying his squirming 11-month-old boy, Noah.

"I want to get my son started early on getting active in the world," he said.

## **KPBS**

### **Could Anti-Price Gouging Laws Slow Rising Rents?**

By: Amita Sharma

Crooning in the shower is not Chad Regeczi's thing.

That's why when he learned last year his monthly rent would go up \$300 so the new owners of his La Mesa apartment could upgrade his bathroom with a sound system, he was bemused.

"300 bucks!" he said. "I mean an iPod costs less than that. Everybody has got a phone now. Who needs a Bluetooth speaker in a bathroom apartment? It's just weird."

Regeczi, a VA employee, said the 30 percent rent increase didn't match the condition of his apartment. But he felt powerless to challenge his landlords on the hike.

"Who's gonna tell them no?" he asked. "There are no rules to how much your rent can go up."

That may change. Talk is underway about putting a law on the books that would bar California landlords from raising rent beyond a certain percentage.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf said in November the rule would mimic limits on what businesses can charge during natural disasters.

"When there's a fire, you pass an anti-rent gouging ordinance," Schaaf said. "The state has a fire. It's called the housing crisis."

Rents are surging in some California cities, where there is no rent control, by double and even triple digits, according to mayors and tenants rights advocates.

More than half of the state's renters pay more than a third of their income on housing, according to the California Budget & Policy Center. And a third of renters spend more than half of their paycheck on a place to live. The real estate firm Zillow reported last month that communities where people pay more than a third of their salary on rent, see a faster rise in homelessness.

The median rent for a one-bedroom apartment in San Francisco is \$3,500 a month, in Los Angeles it's \$2,420 and \$1,950 in San Diego, according to the real estate search site Zumper. And Attom Data Solutions found the average rent on a

three-bedroom apartment in California has risen 20 percent since 2014.

The state's affordable housing crisis has downgraded the California Dream, that once included almost guaranteed homeownership, to a point where even renting an apartment is becoming out of reach.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** has said politicians should not interpret voter rejection of the rent control initiative Proposition 10 in November to mean they're off the hook.

"It is not going to be good enough to say, 'Well the voters spoke,'" Garcetti said. "We have a problem we have to confront."

Garcetti wants the state Legislature to approve an anti-price gouging rent cap. Support of such a cap may be building.

Democratic state Senator Scott Wiener of San Francisco said legislators are mulling over whether to pitch a bill as one way to deal with the state's 3.5 million housing unit shortage over the next decade.

"That shortage is leading to displacement, evictions, people becoming homeless, working families leaving, young people not having stable housing," Wiener said.

Wiener sees a cap as an interim measure until more housing is built.

"Until we get there, and it's going to take a while to get there because housing doesn't get built overnight; and it is a huge hole that we have to fill until we get there, we need to take action to keep people stable in the housing that they have," he said.

David Garcia, who is policy director at UC Berkeley's Turner Center for Housing Innovation, said the cap would protect tenants from the most egregious rent increases aimed at removing them from an apartment.

"Tenants receiving increases 25, 30, 40 percent which we read about all the time, those increases would be illegal," Garcia said.

Landlords don't like the idea.

"It's a form of tenant welfare, paid only by a small number of people," Dan Faller, president of the Apartment Owners Association of California. "If this is a society problem, then society ought to solve it. But this will make the crisis worse."

Tenants advocates, like Rafael Bautista of San Diego's Tenants United, worry for another reason.

He said the state needs rent control that restricts annual increases to 2 percent. He believes that the proposed anti-gouging cap is a ruse for mayors to punt the housing affordability issue to the state Legislature.

"It's basically a watered-down version so that we don't pursue rent control because they'll point to that and say, 'Well, you know we have these measures in place. Why do you still need rent control?'" Bautista said.

But La Mesa resident Chad Regeczki called the cap a good start.

"This is America," Regeczki said. "People want to make money. But at the same time, they can't be crushing people. It's about what's acceptable, what's doable, what's fair."

Regeczki moved out of his apartment following the \$300 rent increase. He's in a larger place now.

"This place is way nicer than that and it's just 200 bucks more than what I was paying there," he said. "It doesn't even make sense."

But deja vu could be setting in. Regeczki's new place just got new owners and that may mean a new rent increase.



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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019**

1 message

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**Cate Hurley** <cate.hurley@lacity.org>  
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>  
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 7:15 AM

**Mayor Eric Garcetti**

[LA TIMES: Teachers union and LAUSD to return to bargaining table Thursday at City Hall](#)  
[LA DAILY NEWS: LAUSD teachers strike, Day 3: District, union, agree to get back to bargaining table, according to LA mayor Garcetti's office](#)  
[LAIST: LAUSD And Teachers Union Will Meet For The First Time In A Week](#)  
[ASSOCIATED PRESS: LA Teachers, District Resume Negotiations Amid Strike](#)  
[REUTERS: Los Angeles mayor to mediate in talks to settle first teachers' strike in 30 years](#)  
[CNN: LA teachers' union, school district to return to the bargaining table](#)  
[NEW YORK TIMES: California Today: L.A. Schools Leader Says, 'Strike Is a Rallying Cry, but What Does It Lead To?'](#)  
[LA TIMES: Los Angeles County hosts a record 50 million visitors in 2018](#)  
[CITY NEWS SERVICE: Los Angeles Reached Record Milestone of 50 Million Visitors in 2018](#)  
[LA BUSINESS JOURNAL: L.A. Sets New Tourism Record With 50M Visitors](#)  
[XINHUA: Los Angeles receives record 1.2 mln Chinese visitors in 2018](#)  
[NBC LOS ANGELES: What's Changed Since the 1994 Northridge Earthquake](#)  
[KCRW: Preparing LA buildings for the Big One \(AUDIO\)](#)  
[UCLA NEWSROOM: UCLA researchers using data-driven approach to make earthquakes less damaging](#)  
[BLOOMBERG: SpaceX Moving Starship Test Work to Texas From L.A.](#)  
[MCCLATCHY DC: 'Not enough staffers to go around' – Democrats face talent shortage for 2020 campaigns](#)  
[LA DAILY NEWS: Everything you need to know about the 2019 Women's March LA on Jan. 19](#)  
[KPCC: LA City Council moves to limit campaign contributions from big developers \(AUDIO\)](#)

**LA Times**

**Teachers union and LAUSD to return to bargaining table Thursday at City Hall**

By: Sonali Kohli, Hannah Fry, and Matthew Ormseth

The Los Angeles teachers union and the school district will return to the bargaining table at noon Thursday at City Hall, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** announced Wednesday night.

Union leaders had announced earlier in the evening that they were ready to resume talks with the Los Angeles Unified School District on Thursday — the fourth day of their strike — and to take up Garcetti's offer to mediate.

"Following discussions with the leadership of UTLA and LAUSD, both parties have agreed to resume bargaining tomorrow at noon at City Hall. The mayor's office will facilitate these negotiations," that office said in a statement.

UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl called on students, teachers and parents to remain on the picket line and show up for a rally Friday in Grand Park to send the bargaining team into what could be a full weekend of negotiations leading up to Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"We want to send them off powerfully, with a huge action on Friday," Caputo-Pearl said.

The district did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

The announcement came after a third day of picketing in the rain in Los Angeles teachers' first strike in 30 years.

In a morning news conference, Caputo-Pearl accused district Supt. Austin Beutner of sending mixed messages about whether students who missed school during the strike would be punished.

"He is trying to create chaos and confusion and fear," the union president said.

Student attendance, meanwhile, dipped to its lowest total yet Wednesday.

The preliminary count, which includes nearly all schools, was 132,411, about 27% of district enrollment. This figure

compares with Tuesday's adjusted total of about 35%, which was a slight improvement over Monday, the first day of the strike.

In all, the district says it has lost \$69.1 million in state funding based on attendance. Subtract the \$10 million a day in wages it hasn't had to pay its striking workforce, and that's a net loss of \$39.1 million.

That news was not the only discouraging development for Beutner. The head of the administrators union, Juan Flecha, floated the idea of closing campuses because of "dire and unsafe working conditions."

And the school board's thinly united front cracked open when board member Scott Schmerelson issued a statement that essentially sided with striking teachers: "Instead of repeating the 'doom, gloom and heading for bankruptcy' predictions that we have heard for decades, I believe that it is Mr. Beutner's job to honestly identify sources of funding buried in our existing budget, and the revenue growth predicted for next year, that could be creatively sourced and invested in the students who need smaller classes and adequate support services now."

Beutner's view of the district's financial limits has been supported by the Los Angeles County Office of Education, which reviews the budgets of county school systems.

Late Wednesday afternoon, activists targeted the only board member who has made public appearances with Beutner this week — board President Monica Garcia.

About 100 parents, students and educators, led by the advocacy group Reclaim Our Schools L.A., swarmed the street of Garcia's home in Montecito Heights around 5:30 and demanded she meet with them and hear their concerns. Half a dozen police officers watched as five protesters walked up Garcia's steps and knocked on her door. They waited for 10 minutes before police asked them to leave, then held a news conference on the sidewalk.

"We came to address her — she sent the police to deal with us," Cesar Castrejon, an activist with Reclaim Our Schools L.A., said on the sidewalk. Some in the crowd jeered; some yelled, "Monica, come out!"

Negotiations between the union and district broke off late Friday after more than 20 months of bargaining. The two sides have been unable to come to a resolution to educators' demands for better pay, more support staff and smaller classes. District officials have said they don't have the money to cover everything teachers are asking for, while union leaders have accused the district of "hoarding" funds.

Caputo-Pearl said Wednesday night that the union and district leadership had spoken to Garcetti and state Supt. of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, who just took office. Garcetti said during a news conference earlier in the day that he hoped formal talks between the union and the district would resume Thursday.

"I urge both sides to keep working around the clock," the mayor said.

Striking in the rain, meanwhile, hasn't been easy on teachers. On Wednesday morning, an English teacher at Walter Reed Middle School in North Hollywood was hit by a car while picketing outside the school. The extent of his injuries was not immediately clear.

Lucia Rodriguez, an English teacher at Banning High School who has been out each day before sunrise, said that her lower back hurt and the joints in her legs felt sore, but that she continued to picket to try to get her students what they need — smaller classes and district funding for extra support staff. Rodriguez said she was concerned that the two sides still weren't talking.

"After the first day, it was so hard to get up," she said.

Rodriguez, 46, stood by the gate outside the Wilmington school Wednesday morning, wearing a poncho covered by a sandwich board listing the union's demands. She had sealed her posters with tape to try to protect them, but red ink was running off the edges.

"I need them to get to the table," she said of both sides, adding that she'd be willing to compromise on salary but not on her core issues.

The strike has put parents and students in a challenging spot, forcing them to decide whether students should go to school, stay home or join their teachers on the picket lines.

Angel Solorio, 18, went to school Monday and Tuesday at Banning High, afraid that absences would be held against him. He spent those days watching movies in the auditorium with hundreds of other teens, then was given worksheets to fill out, summarizing the plots. Solorio said he refused to do so, "in protest."



On Wednesday, he decided to up the ante on his protest and join his teachers on the picket line with his marching band drum. He stood on the corner with more than 100 picketers and led chants of "UTLA" to the beat.

Caputo-Pearl encouraged students and parents to bring that energy into the rest of the week, especially Friday, when the sun is expected to finally reappear over L.A.

"Make these next two days vibrant, make them innovative, make them creative," he said. "Keep your picket lines strong.... We can't show one iota of relenting."

*Also covered by: [Deadline](#), [CBS Los Angeles](#), [ABC Los Angeles](#), [KNX 1070](#), [CBS News](#), [Talking Points Memo](#)*

## **LA Daily News**

**LAUSD teachers strike, Day 3: District, union, agree to get back to bargaining table, according to LA mayor Garcetti's office**

By: Bradley Bermont

LOS ANGELES — A massive teachers strike roared into its third day on Wednesday, with a glimmer of hope by the end of it after L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti's** office announced that the teachers union and the district agreed to get back to the bargaining table over demands for smaller class sizes, more pay and support for local educators in the nation's second-largest school system.

"Following discussions with the leadership of UTLA and LAUSD, both parties have agreed to resume bargaining tomorrow at noon at City Hall. The Mayor's Office will facilitate these negotiations," read a statement sent late in the day from Garcetti's office.

Garcetti's involvement has been apparent through the week after he called for both sides to tone down the fractious rhetoric and take their intense dispute behind closed doors to work out an agreement that two years of negotiations have failed to seal.

He had expressed confidence Monday that an agreement could be struck to end the strike, saying "there is not much that separates the two sides." He added that he and his staff have been in hourly conversations with representatives of both sides in the dispute.

Neither side had much to say after the announcement but a short statement from the union noted that they'll be back at the bargaining table on Thursday, something union President Alex-Caputo-Pearl had been pushing for.

It was the coda to another day of picketing.

Across Los Angeles, an increasingly familiar image dotted local intersections and neighborhoods: Teachers holding umbrellas but also wielding signs and banners, and yelling out chants, all for what has for the past two years been an elusive new teachers' contract.

In a morning rally at Hamilton High School in Culver City, Caputo-Pearl lambasted district Superintendent Austin Beutner. The union leader claimed Beutner was unwilling to come to the negotiating table; the school chief's own message maintained that his door is open.

Caputo-Pearl also criticized the superintendent for mixed messaging on student absences during the strike.

"Austin Beutner, right now you are not communicating honestly to parents, students, and the broader public. You need to stop the lies and start the straight communication," Caputo-Pearl said.

The union leader said that UTLA turned Garcetti's office to help bring the LAUSD to the table. District officials also had said they hoped Garcetti could help bring both sides to the table.

LA Unified has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract while UTLA wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. UTLA is also seeking smaller class sizes, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and regulation on the growth of charter schools.

The district claims the union's contract demands would bankrupt the LAUSD, but the union disputes that contention, pointing to what it calls an estimated \$1.8 billion reserve fund and insisting the district has not faced a financial deficit in five years.

In an interview after the morning rally, Caputo-Pearl told the Southern California News Group that he was seeking two tracks of relief for teachers: One local effort, centered on the LAUSD, and a state effort focused on the Legislature.

"There is certainly money within LAUSD, and there should be the will within LAUSD to meet some of the financial demands — like class size, nurses, counselors — but also to meet some of the things that wouldn't cost the district any money, like greater accountability for charters," he said.

"That said, California is ranked 43 out of 50 among the states in per-pupil funding. We've got to address that, too," he said.

Caputo-Pearl was optimistic about the union's continued efforts, citing a poll released this week by Loyola Marymount University, which found that more than 75 percent of Los Angeles residents supported the teacher's strike. The poll, which was conducted this month prior to the beginning of the strike on Monday, surveyed 425 residents by phone.

Beyond Angelenos, several high-profile Democrats expressed support for the teacher's union, including U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris, along with new U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. But there were plenty of Angelenos also chiming in, from elected leaders to other well-known figures.

*United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLANow*

*Calling on the entertainment industry to come out to the line with him to support public schools, @StevieVanZandt has one more message for everyone.*

*We have to turn #STEM into #STEAM! Art is an essential part of the quality of life!#UTLAStrong #WeAreLA #StudentsDeserve*

"As a retired LAUSD teacher, counselor, and principal, I dedicated my life and career serving LAUSD kids," said School Board Member Scott Schmerelson, whose district includes the San Fernando Valley. "I continue to stand with kids. For me, this means that I stand with teachers, because today they are standing for what's best for our students."

*Elizabeth Warren✓@ewarren*

*I support @UTLANow & LAUSD teachers who are for fighting for better pay, smaller classes, & better resourced schools for our kids. When we fail our public school teachers, we fail their students — and we fail our future. I'm with our teachers all the way. <https://www.latimes.com/local/education/la-me-edu-los-angeles-teachers-strike-reasons-20190109-story.html>*  
...

Fellow board member George McKenna noted that he and Schmerelson — both critical of Beutner — last year proposed that the district ask voters to approve a parcel tax to generate local revenue for schools, but the board rejected the idea.

"We all agree that the state must allocate more money for public education," McKenna said. "That should have been a legislative priority with a full-court press a year ago, not last week. If we expect teachers to do everything in their power to avoid a strike, then we have an obligation to do everything in our power to do the same."

*Mayor Eric Garcetti✓@MayorOfLA*

*I had lunch with teachers striking today — they are making incredible sacrifices and I wanted to hear directly from them about their commitment to the education of our young people.*

But some of the most passionate voices have come from students, some of whom spoke at Wednesday's morning rally.

"I will not be complicit," said Macy Bartlett, a senior at Hamilton High School. "My teachers are striking for all of the things that create better learning conditions for me. ... To all my teachers, thank you. We're here for you because you're here for us."

She was joined by Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz, an alumnus of Hamilton High School who now represents the city's 5th District. He called for a cap on charter schools and said the city should study the impact of charters on the school system as a whole.

"I fear that charter schools could destroy this district," he said. "I'm going to push the school board to get back to the bargaining table, and I'm going to ask them to halt the growth of charter schools."

Union leaders say the first two days of strikes saw more than 50,000 people marching and rallying in downtown Los Angeles. They say that 30,000 teachers, students and parents also protested in front of their local schools each morning.

In the San Fernando Valley, thousands converged on Balboa Boulevard between Vanowen Street and Victory Boulevard in a show so strong it stopped traffic and even rattled neighbors who had no advance warning of the demonstration.

At Grant High School in the San Fernando Valley's Valley Glen neighborhood, Debra Martin, a fourth-grade teacher at Roscoe Elementary School in Sun Valley, picketed with her husband.

"We are clear what we are fighting for. We need nurses, we need psychologists and we need to end the (excessive) testing," Martin said. "We have 32 teachers and only one has crossed the picket lines due to financial issues. I'm close to retiring and this is messing up my retirement (pay), but it's what's necessary. I know this is what I have to do."

One local resident, near the Balboa Boulevard site, who declined to give his full name, said he was sympathetic to teachers' demands and their First Amendment rights, but added: "It's a huge inconvenience for local residents. It's just not the right way to go about doing it."

On Tuesday, in a first for California, charter school teachers for the Accelerated Schools joined the fray, marching against their management company, which is independent of LAUSD.

According to the LAUSD, at least 132,411 of strike-affected students went to class Wednesday, although figures from a dozen other campuses were still being tallied. That figure is a 22 percent drop from Tuesday's revised attendance figure of 171,480. On Monday, the first day of the strike, 156,774 students went to class.

District officials said the absentee rate means a gross revenue loss of about \$69 million in state funding, which is based on daily attendance. The loss is partially offset by millions of dollars in salaries that aren't being paid to the striking teachers. Beutner estimated earlier this week that the district suffered a net loss of roughly \$15 million on Monday alone.

The district sent a letter to parents this week noting that state law "does not excuse absences in case of a strike and students are expected to attend class," but saying school principals "will work with students and families on attendance."

At the moment, schools will not be notifying parents of absences, but will continue to monitor student attendance and provide support to students on an individual basis," according to the district. "Student absences during the strike will not impact graduation."

UTLA has accused the district of failing to issue a "clear, definitive statement" on how the district is handling absences, effectively "exploiting parents' fears and knowingly spreading confusion to try to gain leverage."

All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, and that was the plan on Wednesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

Caputo-Pearl said that the overwhelming community support has turned what would have been a simple labor dispute into a movement.

"It is very obvious that the world is watching," he said at the rally, referencing widespread national media coverage of the strike. "And when the world is watching, we don't suddenly get humble. When the world watches, we step into that space and hold that space."

He said that union members and parents are ready for the long haul.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday agreed to provide the district with up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services, saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner's most recent contract offer to the union last week.

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned during the strike.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

## **LAist**

### **LAUSD And Teachers Union Will Meet For The First Time In A Week**

By: Kyle Stokes

Representatives for United Teachers Los Angeles, whose 30,000 members have been on strike since Monday, will resume contract talks with L.A. Unified School District leaders on Thursday — the first time in almost a week the two sides have met in-person.



Mayor **Eric Garcetti's** office confirmed the resumption of negotiations between LAUSD and UTLA in a statement late Wednesday. The mayor's staff will facilitate the talks, the statement said.

California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond also met with the mayor and United Teachers Los Angeles officials on Wednesday, a spokesperson for Garcetti's office said. A statement from Thurmond's office said that the state's top education official also met with leaders for LAUSD.

Thurmond, who was elected in November, has also offered to assist in negotiations if needed.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

For now, the two sides have simply agreed to talk. At a press conference late Wednesday, UTLA president Alex Caputo-Pearl said the resumption of talks does not mean a framework for a deal is now in place.

"It's still pretty initial," Caputo-Pearl said. "We're going to go in hopefully."

But the union leader sounded a positive note, telling members to be prepared for this new round of talks to last through the weekend.

"There have been really rough times in this negotiation, and there are serious trust issues," Caputo-Pearl said, without a hint of the anger he showed in an earlier press conference, during which he tore into LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner.

"With the help of the mediation of the mayor's office," Caputo-Pearl continued, "and the assistance from Tony Thurmond — if needed, that's been offered — we're going to approach that optimistically."

L.A. Unified School Board vice president Nick Melvoin praised the "voices of passionate parents, teachers, and other civic leaders [that] have helped facilitate continued talks."

## HOW THE MAYOR GOT INVOLVED

In August, Garcetti offered to act as a mediator in the protracted, toxic dispute. In recent days, the mayor's office has been quietly talking to both sides, attempting to act as an intermediary between two camps, who fundamentally distrust each other.

Even late Wednesday, when sources began telling KPCC/LAist that more talks might be imminent, the development seemed tentative. After UTLA's announcement that it would return to the bargaining table, a full hour passed before the mayor's office confirmed the development; many LAUSD officials remain tight-lipped.

Now that he's officially involved in the negotiations, Garcetti is stepping out onto a tightrope, placing his personal credibility on the line at a pivotal moment in his political career. (Widespread rumors suggest Garcetti is considering a run for president.)

## THE OPTIMIST IN THE ROOM

At a press conference Monday, the mayor said he felt the two sides could come to a resolution "soon."

"I truly do believe not a lot separates us materially," Garcetti said. "We have some policy issues to confront on things like [charter schools], on things like how LAUSD is going to be reorganized under the new superintendent and what role will teachers play in that reorganization. But ... they're not talking very far away from each other."

The mayor's sunny assessment is at odds with UTLA's and LAUSD's public statements around the central issue of class size reduction, which cuts to the heart of almost every pressure point in the talks. The two sides have starkly contrasting ideas about how much money the district has to spend and how much control district administrators ought to have.

Garcetti also said LAUSD officials may have to commit more funds than what they're currently proposing; doing so, he said, would require "maybe not a leap of faith, but at least a hop of faith" that programs LAUSD enacts now will be funded later — somehow.

In a statement earlier Wednesday, Melvoin said he had spoken with the mayor with hopes of winning his support for some kind of tax package to benefit LAUSD.

Last July, school board members toyed with the idea of putting a parcel tax on the ballot to raise revenue for the district — but backed away when polling numbers suggested the measure might not pass. The support of a popular mayor might

help.

Thursday's talks are scheduled to begin at noon at L.A. City Hall.

#### **Associated Press**

##### **LA Teachers, District Resume Negotiations Amid Strike**

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles teachers and school district officials will return to the bargaining table with hopes of ending a costly and divisive strike in the nation's second-largest school district.

The office of Mayor **Eric Garcetti** office says both sides have agreed to resume contract negotiation at noon Thursday at City Hall, with the mayor's office facilitating.

But there's now word on whether either side will provide a new offer as the walkout enters its fourth day.

Teachers also plan to keep walking picket lines as they push for higher pay, smaller class sizes and more nurses and counselors. School officials say the money just isn't there and the demands could bankrupt the system. There have been no talks since negotiations ended last Friday.

Schools remain open, staffed by substitutes, and the district says student attendance is at about one-quarter the usual numbers.

#### **Reuters**

##### **Los Angeles mayor to mediate in talks to settle first teachers' strike in 30 years**

By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Negotiators for 30,000 striking Los Angeles teachers and America's second-largest school district have agreed to return to the bargaining table on Thursday, with Mayor **Eric Garcetti** acting as mediator, his office said.

Wednesday's announcement of the breakthrough capped the third day of a strike that has disrupted classes for nearly 500,000 students as teachers pressed their demands for higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

Representatives of the two sides - the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles - have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer last Friday night, setting the stage for district teachers' first strike in 30 years.

There was no immediate word from district officials to the overture for mediated talks, first unveiled by union leaders at a Wednesday night news conference. But Garcetti's office confirmed that both sides had agreed to resume face-to-face sessions on Thursday.

Union officials said the mayor, who has voiced support for the teachers' cause, had met with the two parties on Wednesday.

California's top education official, its superintendent of public instruction, Tony Thurmond, "has also been in touch with both parties and offered support," Arlene Inouye, chair of the union's bargaining team, told reporters.

Thurmond could help to secure extra funding the district may need to close a deal. LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner has said the teachers' demands would strain the budget too much.

Caputo-Pearl said the union was counting on Thurmond and Garcetti to make the case that funding could be found.

"California is the richest state in the union," he told reporters. "The money is there for the kids."

The teachers, who have been without a contract for nearly a year, walked off the job on Monday. School district officials have kept all 1,200 schools open on a limited basis with a skeleton staff, but attendance has been about a third of normal.

#### **RAINY RALLIES**

Thousands of striking teachers joined in boisterous rallies and pickets across the sprawling school district on Wednesday, although a third day of showers seemed unable to dampen their spirits, or those of parents who turned out in support.

Huddled under an umbrella in a downpour, Diana Castillo, a teacher at Harbor City Elementary School, said she discounted assertions by Beutner, a former publisher and investment banker, that the district could not afford the union's demands.

"He makes \$350,000 a year, has a district car and a driver," she said. "The money's there."

At another rally across town, teacher Elizabeth DiMartino said classrooms at her school in the San Fernando Valley had been decrepit for so long that "people think this bare minimum is normal in Los Angeles."

She added, "We spend so much of our own money just to make the classrooms look presentable," and cited a lack of on-site nurses and instructors in art, music and physical education.

The Los Angeles walkout follows a wave of teachers' strikes last year across the United States over pay and school funding, including work stoppages in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona.

Those represented battles between teachers' unions and Republican-dominated state governments focused on cutting costs, while the Los Angeles strike is unfolding in a Democratic-controlled state.

Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached.

Beutner said the district had proposed staff increases that would cost \$130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost \$800 million.

The union wants a pay rise of 6.5 percent, but the district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay. LAUSD teacher pay now averages \$75,000, state figures show.

## **CNN**

### **LA teachers' union, school district to return to the bargaining table**

By: Holly Yan

(CNN)As educators in Los Angeles demand lower class sizes, increased staffing and higher salaries, the teachers' union and the school district plan to return to the bargaining table Thursday.

United Teachers Los Angeles announced it's agreed to go back to the bargaining table with Los Angeles Unified School District.

Both parties met with Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who's offered to mediate in an effort to help work toward an agreement, UTLA Secretary and Bargaining Chair Arlene Inouye said.

"We will be ready to bargain tomorrow and our team will work long and hard toward an agreement that benefits our students, our members and our communities," Inouye said Wednesday.

The tug of war between Los Angeles teachers and their school district may be shifting toward the teachers as picket lines keep growing, the teachers' union said.

"For two days in a row, we had over 50,000 people downtown saying we want educational justice in Los Angeles," United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl said Wednesday.

"The public knows that it is unacceptable not to have full-time nurses. It is unacceptable to have class sizes of 47. It is unacceptable to have teachers come in and then leave because the conditions are too hard and the pay isn't enough."

More than 30,000 educators and thousands of their supporters are walking picket lines this week to demand lower class sizes, increased staffing and higher teacher salaries.

On day three of the strike Wednesday, teachers were joined by students, E Street Band guitarist Steven Van Zandt, and a former US education official who said this fight goes beyond Los Angeles.

"You are making history," former US Assistant Education Secretary Diane Ravitch told the teachers. "This is not just a Los Angeles issue, a California issue. It is a national issue."

But while the teachers want millions more in school funding, every day of the strike is costing their school district millions of dollars. That's because the state funds schools based on daily attendance. And many students are absent during the strike this week.

Parent Karen Goldman knows this -- and said the money lost by lower attendance is one reason why she's keeping her fifth-grade son out of school.

"I feel like the message I am sending by not sending him and creating a budget loss is better than if I send him, because

that will hopefully bring the strike to a conclusion faster," she said.

Teacher Maria Arienza, right, rallies next to student Stephanie Medrano outside North Hollywood High.

The school district has not responded to CNN's questions about how many teachers are not on strike and are still in classrooms.

The district said it reassigned more than 2,000 administrators and hired about 400 substitute teachers to help fill in for more than 30,000 teachers and staff on strike.

Some students have reported playing board games during school, getting crammed into auditoriums or watching movies all day long.

The superintendent defended the decision to keep schools running.

"While education in classrooms is not the same without teachers, we have a responsibility to keep schools open and provide students with a safe space, shelter from the rain, meals and modified instruction," Superintendent Austin Beutner said.

'It feels like a chess game'

Not much progress has been made between the union and the school district in three days of the strike.

The standoff comes down to two issues: how much money to spend on more school staffing and teachers' raises, and whether the school district actually has that kind of money.

Beutner said there's no way the district can afford right now to give the union everything it wants. He noted an independent fact-finder agreed that it doesn't have the money to cover the union's demands.

The district did offer \$130 million toward what the union wants, but UTLA rejected that proposal.

The teachers' union has a different take on the numbers.

It said the school district should tap into \$1.8 billion in reserves to fund more desperately needed staff members as well as to increase teachers' pay.

The superintendent said that the \$1.8 billion is already earmarked for education spending during this three-year budget cycle. At this rate, the district said, it might not even have enough money to meet a required 1% reserve by the 2021-2022 school year.

But the union president said the school district has "always been wrong in their projections, so we just don't believe those numbers."

"The district's three-year projections have always been wrong," Caputo-Pearl said. "Three years ago, they predicted a \$105 million reserve; they ended with a \$1.86 billion reserve. They were off by \$1.7 billion."

The superintendent blamed the union for rejecting the latest offer and not coming back to the negotiating table.

## **New York Times**

### **California Today: L.A. Schools Leader Says, 'Strike Is a Rallying Cry, but What Does It Lead To?'**

By: Jill Cowan

Los Angeles public school teachers are on the third day of their strike, with thousands of teachers showing up at school picket lines and massive rallies downtown. With some 30,000 teachers off the job, just a third of the district's 500,000 students have showed up to school this week.

The union's anger has largely been directed at Austin Beutner, the superintendent who was appointed last year in large part because of his business background. Jennifer Medina spoke to Mr. Beutner as protesters gathered outside the district headquarters. He did not disguise his frustration and exasperation over the strike. Here is an excerpt from the interview, which has been condensed and lightly edited.

*JENNIFER MEDINA: What is this battle about right now?*

**AUSTIN BEUTNER:** The union's desires are the same as mine. In concept we could agree with everything. But there's limits on resources. The regulator on behalf of the state has told us we're in dire financial straits. We cannot spend more than what we have.

*There are no negotiations scheduled between the district and the union, United Teachers Los Angeles. How long will the strike go on and how can it end?*

What I can't predict is if and when U.T.L.A. will come back to bargaining. I remain available 24/7, anywhere, any time. Whatever it takes we'll do it. But they've not reached out and I don't know when that happens.

*You've been the focus of the union's ire, and there are calls for your resignation. How do you respond to that?*

There's a lot of misinformation about who I am or why I'm doing this. My dad came from Germany fleeing the Nazis. My mom was a schoolteacher, public-school teacher all her life — in New York, in New Jersey, in Michigan. I succeeded beyond my wildest dreams then had a bit of a setback 10 years ago when I broke my neck mountain biking. I almost died. The next chapter has given me the chance to make a difference. I've tried to give every kid the same opportunity I was given in public education. The notion that because you live the American dream and get lucky and that is something to disparage is puzzling.

*What do you think of the many Democrats — including several presidential hopefuls — who are explicitly supporting the strike?*

I saw a lovely picture of a bunch of legislators in Sacramento wearing "Red for Ed." How about green? They're the ones who appropriate the money. We don't have enough funding for schools. In a generation, California's going from top of the charts to near the bottom of the charts. And the legislators want to stand up there and say they're with the teachers. Red for ed? I'll finish the sentence: Come up with green. Show me the money.

*Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no formal role in the district's schools, has tried to be an intermediary between you and the union. But this week, he has shown his support for striking teachers. What do you think of that?*

The mayor talked about his commitment to teachers. I share that commitment. He talked about the energy in the work action. I like that energy, too. Let's take the energy to Sacramento. I don't want to take the energy to closing middle schools.

The mayor made a comment that we should take a leap of faith in our budgeting. You can't pay people with a leap of faith, I think he should understand that. If he wants to take a leap of faith, maybe the city should backstop that leap of faith. The city has a budget. They have money to help with homeless children. We have almost 20,000 in our schools. Maybe the city can provide us with additional funding and resources.

*A poll from Loyola Marymount University released Tuesday showed the overwhelming majority of Los Angeles residents support the strike. Is this a turning point for public schools here?*

The strike is a rallying cry, but what does it lead to? Maybe we just have a different view on how you build consensus and how you're trying to move something forward. I'd like to see our civic leaders, our elected leaders in this conversation — they're notably absent. I believe our community organizations are noticeably absent. They should all be here now. Where's the pressure for us to even be at the table right now?

## **LA Times**

### **Los Angeles County hosts a record 50 million visitors in 2018**

By: Hugo Martin

Marking the eighth year in a row of tourism growth, Los Angeles County hosted an estimated 50 million visitors in 2018, reaching a target two years ahead of schedule.

The tourism record represents a 3.1% improvement over 2017's total of 48.5 million visitors, fueled by a slightly higher increase in international tourists — despite fears that President Trump's travel ban and anti-immigration statements would scare them away.

The number of international visitors climbed 3.6% in 2018 over the previous year while the number of domestic visitors rose 3%, according to tourism officials.

The increase in Los Angeles County reflects tourism trends throughout the country.

The U.S. Travel Assn. last week reported a 3.8% rise in international visitors in November compared with the same month in 2017, with domestic travel rising 3% in the same period.

But the trade group predicts a drop in foreign visitors in the next few months because of rising trade tensions, slowing economic growth in countries that generate travel to the U.S. — such as China — and the rising value of the dollar

compared with other currencies.

The group also worries that the government shutdown will further hurt the travel industry because it means fewer federal employees will be traveling for work.

"It is now plainly evident that the shutdown is affecting air travel, and when that happens, damage to the overall U.S. economy will shortly follow," the group's executive vice president of public affairs, Jonathan Grella, said in a statement Wednesday.

New York City on Wednesday announced a 3.8% increase to 65.2 million visitors in 2018, with a 3% increase in the number of international visitors over 2017, according to NYC & Co., the city's tourism agency.

In Los Angeles, visitors from China set an all-time high of 1.2 million, a 6.9% increase from the previous year, making Los Angeles County the top-ranked U.S. city for Chinese travelers.

After a slight decline in 2017, the number of visitors from Mexico also reached a record, with 1.8 million guests, a 4% increase, according to the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board.

The number of visitors from Canada, Britain, Japan, Scandinavia and India also recorded substantial increases in 2018. In all, 7.5 million international travelers and 42.5 million domestic travelers came to Los Angeles last year.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and the city's top tourism officials noted they had reached 50 million visitors two years ahead of the target date of 2020, a goal set by Garcetti and tourism leaders in Los Angeles.

"Surpassing 50 million annual visitors two years ahead of schedule," the mayor said in a statement, "is the latest milestone in our ongoing work to bring Los Angeles to the world, and the world to Los Angeles."

The preliminary estimates were announced Wednesday at a news conference at L.A. Live. Final, more precise numbers, will be released in May. The tourism estimate and the final numbers are generated by an economics forecasting firm based on the number of hotel stays, airline seats filled on flights in and out of Los Angeles International Airport and credit card spending data, among other information.

In response to President Trump's anti-immigration statements and efforts to ban travel from several predominantly Muslim countries, the U.S. Travel Assn. formed a coalition with other U.S. industries and travel groups called Visit the USA.

In Los Angeles, Garcetti and other tourism officials created their own campaign to send a message of welcome to tourists, especially from Mexico and largely Muslim countries.

The campaign featured a music video that appeared on social media sites in Canada, China, Mexico, Britain and Australia.

The tourism industry represents one of the largest employers in Los Angeles County, with more than 500,000 jobs supported by the leisure and hospitality industries.

Economists estimated last year that tourists in Los Angeles County were responsible for \$22.7 billion in direct spending, with an overall economic impact of \$34.9 billion when calculating the ripple effect on purchases of other goods and services.

#### **City News Service**

#### **Los Angeles Reached Record Milestone of 50 Million Visitors in 2018**

Los Angeles surpassed 50 million visitors for the first time in 2018, the city's Tourism & Convention Board announced Thursday.

The new record is 1.5 million visitors higher than 2017's total -- a 3.1 percent increase -- marking the eighth consecutive year of tourism growth for Los Angeles, according to the local tourism board.

"Los Angeles is a place where everyone is welcome, and tourism strengthens our diversity, grows our economy, and supports good-paying jobs for families across our city," said Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. "Surpassing 50 million annual visitors two years ahead of schedule is the latest milestone in our ongoing work to bring Los Angeles to the world, and the world to Los Angeles."

In surpassing 50 million total visitors, Los Angeles set new tourism records for domestic and international visitation, hosting an estimated 42.5 million domestic visitors (3 percent increase) and 7.5 million international visitors (3.6 percent increase).

After a slight decrease in 2017, visitation from Mexico in 2018 was at the highest total ever with 1.8 million visitors, a 4 percent increase.

China recorded an all-time high 1.2 million visitors, making Los Angeles the number one ranked U.S. city for Chinese travelers (6.9 percent increase, the largest net gain among all international markets).

Other international markets recording their highest visitation totals ever in 2018 include: Canada with 780,000 (4.5 percent increase); the U.K. with 382,000 (3 percent increase); Japan with 349,000 (2.5 percent increase); Scandinavia with 190,000 (3.9 percent increase); and India with 130,000 (5.1 percent increase).

"The 50 million milestone was set in 2013 as a north star goal for the tourism industry, but our unwavering focus on its significant community impact and tangible economic benefits seamlessly transformed it into a civic rallying cry for all of Los Angeles," said Ernest Wooden Jr., president and CEO of the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board. "Thank you to our city leadership and hospitality partners for their endless support and ongoing investments that have cemented tourism in L.A. as a powerful driver of economic growth."

The board attributed L.A.'s tourism growth to several factors, including a 3.6 percent increase in international seat capacity at Los Angeles International Airport, and nearly 2,000 new hotel rooms.

Last year, tourism supported an average of more than 547,000 jobs in the Leisure & Hospitality sector, which generated the largest year-over year increase in new jobs with 22,996 -- a 4.4 percent increase, according to the tourism board.

A record 30.1 million hotel room nights were sold countywide, a 2.4 percent increase. Visitors are expected to generate at least \$288 million in transient occupancy tax collections for the City of Los Angeles in 2018, which would be a record, according to the tourism board. TOT monies are used to fund local fire, police as well as cultural and recreational services.

#### **LA Business Journal**

#### **L.A. Sets New Tourism Record With 50M Visitors**

By: Rachel Uranga

Los Angeles set a new record for tourism in 2018 marking the eighth consecutive year of growth, officials announced Wednesday against the backdrop of L.A. Live.

The county hosted 50 million visitors, a 3.1 percent increase over 2017 and in line with tourism goals Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** set for 2020.

Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board President and CEO Ernest Wooden Jr. and Garcetti attributed the continued boom to increased seat capacity at Los Angeles International Airport, 2,000 more hotel rooms coming online, the city's reputation as a cultural hub and their global marketing campaign, "L.A. Loves."

The bump in tourism helped grow the hospitality industry 4.4 percent over the prior year supporting 547,000 jobs and making it one of the fastest growing sector in the economy.

Demand for hotels increased 2.4 percent over the previous year and estimates show visitors are expected to generate at least \$288 million dollars in city lodging taxes.

"Surpassing 50 million annual visitors two years ahead of schedule is the latest milestone in our ongoing work to bring Los Angeles to the world, and the world to Los Angeles," Garcetti said.

Data from the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Bureau shows hotel occupancy rates for downtown between January and November last year, show a 1.4 percent rise in occupancy from the prior year to 79 percent, while overall occupancy rates remained about steady from the year before at 81 percent.

"We are attaining record breaking occupancy rates," said Javier Cano, vice president and market general manager for the Ritz-Carlton. Though about 65 percent of the hotels customers are convention-goers, he said downtown's draw as a leisure destination has helped fill up rooms.

#### **Xinhua**

#### **Los Angeles receives record 1.2 mln Chinese visitors in 2018**

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 16 (Xinhua) -- The western U.S. city of Los Angeles received a record 1.2 million visitors from China in 2018, the authorities said on Wednesday.



The city had 50 million visitors in 2018, up by 3.1 percent year-on-year to reach a record high, said Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Tourism & Convention Board President & CEO Ernest Wooden Jr. in downtown Los Angeles.

And the figure marked the eighth consecutive year of tourism growth in Los Angeles.

New tourism records were set for both domestic and international visits with the city hosting an estimated 42.5 million domestic visitors and 7.5 million international visitors, respectively.

"Los Angeles is a place where everyone is welcome, and tourism strengthens our diversity, grows our economy, and supports good-paying jobs for families across our city," said Garcetti.

"Surpassing 50 million annual visitors two years ahead of schedule is the latest milestone in our ongoing work to bring Los Angeles to the world, and the world to Los Angeles," he added.

Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board has worked hard "to get a bigger footprint in China to merchandise to our friends," said Wooden.

"I'm proud to say that we were very happy we made the decision to go to China 13 years ago and open up our first office in Beijing," he said.

The organization now has four offices in the Chinese mainland and will probably open another office soon, Wooden said.

## **NBC Los Angeles**

### **What's Changed Since the 1994 Northridge Earthquake**

By: John Antczak, Jonathan Lloyd, and Conan Nolan

In the 25 years since the Jan. 17, 1994 Northridge earthquake, there has been a push toward progress -- sometimes frustratingly slow -- on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

Below, a look at some of the changes, lessons learned and safety efforts in the wake of one of the United States' worst natural disasters.

**The Great ShakeOut Drill:** In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

**Mandatory Retrofit Ordinance:** In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-story" buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with "non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction. The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

**Fault Model Evolution:** Researchers are able to better document faults in the Los Angeles area -- what seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones called a "CAT scan" of the LA basin. The models allowed researchers to study the Oakridge fault, a larger fault that shows up in Ventura County.

"We could start seeing that Northridge wasn't just a localized little fault," Jones told NBC4. "Up until Northridge, we would have said you couldn't have that big an earthquake on a blind fault -- that if it's a big enough fault to give you a big earthquake, it has to come all the way through to the service. We had to revise that idea."

**Better Freeway Overpasses:** Major collapses Investment in overpass retrofits means those structures should hold up better in an earthquake. But the same isn't true for all bridges.

"We won't see a freeway collapse, probably," said Jones. "Caltrans has invested \$10 million in retrofitting freeway bridges because of Loma Prieta and Northridge. We might very well see a collapse of county and city bridges because they haven't got any of that money."

**Early Warning System:** Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.



"You can draw a line straight from Northridge to what we're doing with early warning," Jones said. "Because the system failed in Northridge, we got more money. Because of those problems, we got a chunk of money to improve those computers. We've sped it up to the point that sometimes the information will get to you before the shaking itself does, compared to months to get that information in 1995."

*LA's Early Warning App:* This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development. Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

*Also covered by: [Telemundo](#)*

## **KCRW**

### **Preparing LA buildings for the Big One**

By: Frances Anderton

One of the most fatal sites during the earthquake was The Northridge Meadows apartment complex. The three-story stucco building with 140 units was right at the epicenter of the quake. It sat right atop a fault line that geologists did not even know was there. Sixteen people were killed when the top two floors of the apartment complex pancaked on top of the first. This was a "soft-story" building with tuck-under parking. Many are nicknamed dingbats.

There have been efforts to get those types of buildings retrofitted. In 2016 the City of Los Angeles passed an ordinance mandating retrofits of around 13,000 wood frame soft-story buildings. Many of the largest apartment buildings of this type were in the San Fernando Valley.

Los Angeles' chief resilience officer Marissa Aho told DnA on ATC that since the program started, a total of 1,500 buildings have completed the retrofit process. Another 1,801 buildings has been issued permits by the DBS to begin retrofitting and then more than 4,551 additional buildings have begun the process by submitting plans.

But "orders to comply" have been issued for all of the 12,865 soft-story buildings that need seismic upgrades.

Aho says the city is making good progress.

"Yes, our most vulnerable buildings are being retrofitted. 61 percent of our soft-story buildings have started the process. The notices went out to the largest buildings first," she said, "so, with the 1,500 buildings that are complete, those buildings hold 21,000 households that are safer today."

The city's mandatory retrofit program requires owners to either provide evidence that their structures have been retrofitted, or file plans to do so, within two years.

Aho said the city sent orders to comply to the owners of larger buildings first, so the retrofits would begin quickest for the bulk of the units that needed them. She estimates that it costs around \$6,000 per unit to retrofit a building.

Ali Sahabi, engineer and owner of Optimum Seismic, a company that does seismic retrofitting, told DnA that this is money well spent, for reasons both humanitarian and economic. Rental properties provide their owners with a strong and steady source of income, which is lost if the building collapses.

Last year Mayor **Garcetti** issued the Resilient Los Angeles report, which outlined the city's preparedness goals, including earthquake planning.

There was also an app launched earlier this month called ShakeAlert LA that notifies you if an earthquake occurs that's 5.0 or greater, giving you a few extra seconds to prepare.

But this is a really important issue. Earthquakes are always out of sight, out of mind, but a team of scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey estimated that LA's next big earthquake could displace 270,000 people.

## **UCLA Newsroom**

### **UCLA researchers using data-driven approach to make earthquakes less damaging**

By: Amy Akmal

The 1994 Northridge earthquake was one of the costliest natural disasters in U.S. history. Fifty-seven people died, more than 8,700 were injured, and property damages amounted to billions of dollars. In the 25 years since the 6.7 quake shook Southern California at 4:30 a.m. on Jan.17 — collapsing buildings, bridges and freeways — what have we learned?

Quite a lot thanks in part to the work of scientists and engineers at UCLA, who are continuing to make structures safer and help identify earthquake hotspots.

Nearly half of the people who died were trapped in buildings with “soft stories,” the openings on the first level often used for parking spaces in smaller apartment buildings. Due to a lack of support below, apartments came crashing down.

In 2015, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** signed a measure requiring seismic retrofitting of soft-story buildings within seven years, and provided 25 years for upgrades to concrete structures.

“Simply stated, seismic retrofit works,” said Yousef Bozorgnia, a professor of civil and environmental engineering in the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering and principal investigator of a research project on residential wood buildings. “Recent simulations of seismic performance of wood-frame buildings clearly show that upgrading older residential buildings is effective both for life safety and reducing financial loss.”

Bozorgnia and other UCLA engineering researchers are now amplifying their knowledge with the latest information and technology that simply wasn’t available 25 years ago to mitigate damage from future temblors.

Technology, such as ShakeAlertLA, an earthquake warning application released by the City of Los Angeles earlier this month, is a reminder of the ongoing behind-the-scenes expertise required in keeping Angelenos as safe as possible.

### *Accelerometers and artificial intelligence*

Structural engineering professors Henry Burton and John Wallace are working with the City of Los Angeles to systematically assess data from accelerometers, or sensor networks, placed in downtown Los Angeles’ skyscrapers. Using data, such as the ambient vibration in buildings that comes from the surrounding environment, which often remains unanalyzed, Burton and Wallace aim to model and contribute to the design of tall buildings that can better withstand the forces of an earthquake. They also want to help establish a coordinated response to earthquake damage and disruption throughout downtown Los Angeles.

Additionally, Burton is using artificial intelligence to help guide post-earthquake inspections to assess how much the structural strength of tall buildings is reduced by earthquake damage. The technology can inform optimal sensor placement in these buildings, as well as provide real-time risk projections in aftershock environments.

### *Machine learning*

Chukwuebuka Nweke, a UCLA postdoc in geotechnical engineering, is studying basin effects in Southern California using relational databases, cloud computing, and machine learning techniques. Southern California is a geologically diverse region composed of flat low-lying areas consisting of sediment-filled basins surrounded by mountains. The thick sediments in the basins influence propagation of earthquake waves, causing them to be different from the ground motion at the bottom of the basin, which leads to shaking on the surface that is higher in intensity (or lower) than what would be expected based on the size of the waves traveling deeper below ground.

Nweke’s research explores the extent to which local basin models differ from similar models of other parts of the world, and will result in a region-specific model that will improve seismic hazard analysis in Southern California.

### *Google Earth*

Using Google Earth and images harvested from Google Street View, which didn’t exist in 1994, Ertugrul Taciroglu, professor of civil and environmental engineering, and his students are developing computer codes that locate individual structures and examine them through Street View from multiple angles. The algorithms are used to develop detailed models for seismic risk assessment, with particular emphasis on California bridges and Los Angeles’ collapse-prone, pre-1974 (non-ductile) reinforced concrete building inventory. The team is extending their work toward risk assessment for other hazards affecting urban regions such as wildfires and extreme wind events.

### *International databases, cloud computing and meticulous maps*

Wallace and his students have worked with international researchers to develop a robust database of tests conducted on reinforced concrete structural walls. This data has been instrumental in improving the building code for concrete structures, including guidelines for new skyscrapers in Los Angeles and major cities along the West Coast.

Civil and environmental engineering professors Scott Brandenburg and Jonathan Stewart study ground failure during earthquakes, a major cause of which is liquefaction, a process in which soil loses substantial strength. The team is working on the Next Generation Liquefaction project, a global collaboration led by UCLA and the University of Washington to redefine how liquefaction and its effects are predicted. The project team has developed an innovative community relational database of liquefaction case histories, and implemented it using cloud-based computing so engineers can

execute and share their data entirely online.

Bozorgnia and Stewart play critical roles, along with collaborators across the globe, in major projects designed to help predict earthquake ground motions from future earthquakes. One product of this work is ground motion hazard maps that show anticipated levels of ground shaking from future earthquakes across the United States. These maps are used in building codes. A great deal of research goes into producing the models used to predict ground motions, much of which occurs at UCLA. Researchers here have generated models for different tectonic regimes, including mid-plate regions (Central and Eastern United States), subduction regions (Pacific Northwest), and active tectonic regions like California. The work defines the current state-of-the-art for ground motion prediction, which is an essential component of earthquake engineering research and practice.

"Our resilience as a community ultimately increased as a result of Northridge and what engineers learned in its aftermath," Stewart said. "We at UCLA are committed to continue playing a vital role in understanding seismic risk, developing predictive models for the seismic response of infrastructure systems, and producing innovative mitigation measures in order to improve the safety of the public and the integrity of urban infrastructure."

## **Bloomberg**

### **SpaceX Moving Starship Test Work to Texas From L.A.**

By: Dana Hull

Elon Musk's SpaceX, which announced significant layoffs Friday, is moving the testing of its Starship prototype vehicle from the Port of Los Angeles to its site in south Texas.

In April, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** tweeted that Space Exploration Technologies Corp. was starting production development of the Big Falcon Rocket, now called Starship, at the Port of Los Angeles. SpaceX has said the new, larger vehicle -- designed to carry humans on quick hops across the world and eventually to Mars -- would need to be built near the water, given its size. SpaceX has a launch facility in Boca Chica, Texas, on the Gulf of Mexico coast near Brownsville. The Los Angeles Times first reported the news.

"To streamline operations, SpaceX is developing and will test the Starship test vehicle at our site in South Texas," spokeswoman Eva Behrend in an emailed statement. "This decision does not impact our current manufacture, design and launch operations in Hawthorne and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Additionally, SpaceX will continue recovery operations of our reusable Falcon rockets and Dragon spacecraft at the Port of Los Angeles."

On Wednesday afternoon, Musk took to Twitter to clarify the company's statement, saying it was "our miscommunication." He said the new vehicle will still be developed at the company's headquarters in Hawthorne, but the prototype will be built at the launch site in Texas.

SpaceX announced Friday that it's laying off about 10 percent of its workforce. A notice filed with the state of California detailed 577 positions being cut at the company's headquarters in Hawthorne.

"While we are disappointed that SpaceX will not be expanding their operations at the Port of Los Angeles, we are pleased that they will continue their recovery operations here," Phillip Sanfield, a port spokesman, said in a statement. "Our ongoing work with SpaceX and other advanced technology companies is important to our efforts to advance the port through innovation and new technologies."

## **McClatchy DC**

### **'Not enough staffers to go around' – Democrats face talent shortage for 2020 campaigns**

By: Adam Wollner

As more Democratic presidential hopefuls inch closer to entering the 2020 contest, many are running into an early roadblock: There aren't enough staffers for everyone.

In the critical early voting states, there are a limited number of high-level operatives with presidential campaign experience available to the upwards of two dozen potential candidates. And with no clear frontrunner, plus several big names whose intentions remain unclear, some staffers are hesitant to sign on to a campaign right away.

"There are not enough staffers to go around," said Jerry Crawford, a veteran of several Democratic presidential campaigns in Iowa. "It's a reflection that a lot of candidates won't have the resources to be competitive."

In Iowa, Elizabeth Warren, who announced her presidential exploratory committee on New Year's Eve, hired four well-regarded operatives in the state, including Hillary Clinton's 2016 state director and Bernie Sanders' 2016 caucus director.

That's put even more pressure on the other Democratic contenders to scoop up the remaining experienced operatives. Cory Booker has been in contact with Michael Frosolone, who was the director of the Iowa House Democrats political

operation in 2018, about a role in the campaign. Other potential candidates, including Kirsten Gillibrand, **Eric Garcetti** and Kamala Harris, have also been in touch with staffers in the state.

"Everybody is a free agent this time around, regardless if there was allegiance to Hillary or Bernie," said Sean Bagniewski, the chairman of the Polk County Democrats in Iowa. "All the voters are free agents and all the staff are free agents."

In South Carolina, much of the early action has centered on drafting O'Rourke, the former Texas congressman who lost his 2018 Senate race against Ted Cruz, into the presidential race. Two veterans of Martin O'Malley's 2016 South Carolina campaign, Boyd Brown and Tyler Jones, recently joined the "Draft Beto" group in hopes of laying the groundwork for O'Rourke should he decide to run. The group has also signed on operatives in Nevada and California, and is in contact with O'Rourke supporters in Iowa and New Hampshire.

"We believe in this guy that much that we're taking this risk," said Brown, adding that he has not heard directly from O'Rourke's camp.

As presidential contenders continue to reach out to potential staffers, South Carolina Democrats say that selecting individuals with ties to the black community, which accounted for 60 percent of the state's primary electorate, will be key. That's put someone like Clay Middleton, Clinton's 2016 South Carolina director and a former aide to Rep. Jim Clyburn, in high demand.

Middleton, who is now a member of the Democratic National Committee, said he's spoken with several potential candidates in recent weeks, but hasn't decided if he's going to join a campaign.

"South Carolina is one of those states where you can't mail in staffers. That's not going to work here," said former South Carolina Democratic Party chairman Jaime Harrison, who is now an associate chairman of the DNC. "People want to know your connections and ties."

In New Hampshire, several Democratic hopefuls, including Steve Bullock and Terry McAuliffe and Booker held meet-and-greet sessions with groups of local staffers during visits last year.

So far, many of the top operatives in New Hampshire have yet to officially sign on with a campaign. Warren is set to hire Liz Wester, who was Hillary Clinton's New Hampshire political director in 2016, according to two sources with knowledge of the move. (The Boston Globe first reported the hire.)

Jim Demers, who co-chaired Barack Obama's 2008 New Hampshire campaign and Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign, said he would serve as an adviser to Cory Booker on a volunteer basis if, as expected, the New Jersey senator launches a presidential bid. Demers said Booker is still searching for a state director in New Hampshire.

"A lot of campaigns are finding the talent pool in New Hampshire is very limited," Demers said.

In other cases, respected operatives who have worked on presidential campaigns in the past aren't expected to jump back into the fold for 2020. Brad Anderson, who worked on both of Obama's Iowa campaigns, took a job last year with AARP. Mike Vlachich, who ran Clinton's 2016 campaign in New Hampshire, is now the president and CEO of the New Hampshire College & University Council. And veteran New Hampshire strategist Kari Thurman joined freshman Rep. Chris Pappas' staff.

"It's tough to find people because a lot of people from last cycle have moved onto other things," said Gene Martin, the chairman of the Manchester, New Hampshire Democratic Party. "They're not going to leave a good job."

Those who are in the limited pool of talent for 2020 will have to decide whether signing on with a candidate early, which could allow them to have a senior role and provide a possible path to the White House, is worth the risk of the campaign flaming out quickly. Some may be able to afford to wait to see whether Democrats like Joe Biden and O'Rourke enter the race and which candidates rise to the top of the field over the next few months before committing to the grueling schedule of a campaign staffer.

"The fact is, you don't have to get married after the first date," said South Carolina Democratic Party chairman Trav Robertson. "You may see some of the more experienced people holding back until seeing whether their number one choice is going to run."

## **LA Daily News**

### **Everything you need to know about the 2019 Women's March LA on Jan. 19**

By: Holly Andres

Women's March LA 2019 will take over downtown streets on Saturday. It'll be the third one. So here's a few basics.

It is a non-partisan march taking place Saturday, Jan. 19, in downtown LA celebrating women's rights and organizations that promote voter registration, inspire young people to perform community service and help women who are interested in running for public office.

The third annual march, whose theme is "Truth to Power," kicks off with a Tongva blessing at 8:30 a.m. at Pershing Square in downtown Los Angeles. A program with guest speakers begins at 9 a.m., and participants proceed to Los Angeles City Hall beginning at 10 a.m.

The organization's website states that the event is pro-peace and pro-inclusivity. They state that "anti" statements are not the focus of the day. They are expecting 250,000 attendees on Saturday.

When the event moves to Grand Park, adjacent to City Hall, it will include entertainment, speakers, art work and community information booths between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Scheduled participants include women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, state Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo, state Sen. Maria Elena Durazo, LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, National Council of Jewish Women Los Angeles Executive Director Marjorie Gilberg, U.S. Rep. Katie Hill, West Hollywood City Councilwoman Lindsey Horvath, Los Angeles City Councilwomen Nury Martinez and Monica Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, filmmaker and actress Jennifer Siebel Newsom and transgender activist Bamby Salcedo.

Announced entertainers include Aloe Blacc, Connie Britton, Laverne Cox, Laura Dern, Lauren Jauregui, Maya Jupiter, Raja Kumari, Ricki Lake, Ingrid Michaelson, MILCK and the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles.

The famed "Fearless Girl" statue known for its display on Wall Street in New York will be on display in Grand Park, and its sculptor, Kristen Visbal, will also appear.

Women's March Los Angeles states on its website that it is an independent organization and is not affiliated with Women's March Inc. The latter's leadership has been accused of having ties with Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who has made negative statements about Jews and gay and transgender communities.

Metrolink has scheduled additional trains on the Antelope Valley, San Bernardino and Ventura lines to help participants attending the event. Metrolink passengers can transfer with no additional cost at Union Station to Metro Rail or Metro bus service to Pershing Square. Tickets for Metrolink may be purchased on Metrolink's App on the Apple App Store and Google Play. [www.metrolinktrains.com/womensmarch](http://www.metrolinktrains.com/womensmarch)

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation says surrounding streets may be closed as early as 7 a.m. Jan. 19, and motorists should expect delays in the area.

#### *Key addresses*

Pershing Square, 532 S. Olive St.  
Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring St.

Contact: 310-200-0124. [www.womensmarchla.org](http://www.womensmarchla.org)

#### **KPCC**

##### **LA City Council moves to limit campaign contributions from big developers**

By: Mary Plummer and Sandra Oshiro

A handful of Los Angeles City Council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by city officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and

Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.



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Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>

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**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019**

1 message

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**Cate Hurley** <cate.hurley@lacity.org>  
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>  
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 23, 2019 at 7:51 AM

**Mayor Eric Garcetti**

[LA TIMES: The LAUSD strike may be over, but the real work lies ahead](#)  
[LA TIMES: In teachers' strike settlement, public support for education was the best news](#)  
[LA TIMES: LAUSD teachers' strike ends. Teachers to return to classrooms Wednesday](#)  
[NEW YORK TIMES: California Today: Eric Garcetti on the Teachers' Strike: 'I Could Do Things Other People Weren't Able to Do'](#)  
[LA DAILY NEWS: Will helping fix the teachers strike help Eric Garcetti become president?](#)  
[ASSOCIATED PRESS: Los Angeles Teachers Head Back to School After Reaching Deal](#)  
[REUTERS: Los Angeles teachers to resume classes Wednesday after vote on contract deal](#)  
[CNN: LA teachers return to classrooms after 6-day strike](#)  
[ABC LOS ANGELES: LA teachers back in class Wednesday as union approves LAUSD deal](#)  
[LA DAILY NEWS: In deal between LAUSD and teachers, some parties gained ground while others gave it up](#)  
[LA DAILY NEWS: What will make LAUSD teachers' deal work? New outside funding – and teamwork](#)  
[LA DAILY NEWS: UTLA's lead dealmaker on nailing an end to the LAUSD teacher strike: 'We just said we're not going to leave if we don't get these things'](#)  
[LA DAILY NEWS: 'Celebrate good times...' is the soundtrack as picketers exult to news of end to LAUSD strike](#)  
[UNIVISION: Mayor Eric Garcetti Announces Tentative Agreement to End Teacher Strike in Los Angeles \(VIDEO ONLY\)](#)  
[KCRW: As teachers strike, political heavyweights bide their time \(AUDIO ONLY\)](#)  
[KPCC: AirTalk: LAUSD and UTLA reach a tentative deal, potentially ending six-day teachers' strike \(AUDIO ONLY\)](#)  
[KPCC: AirTalk: LAUSD / UTLA reach tentative agreement: what's the deal? \(AUDIO ONLY\)](#)  
[PBS NEWSHOUR: News Wrap: LA school district, teachers reach a tentative deal \(AUDIO ONLY\)](#)  
[POLITICO: LA teachers poised to end strike](#)  
[WASHINGTON POST: Los Angeles teachers reach agreement with district leaders to end strike](#)  
[NBC NEWS: Los Angeles teachers approve deal ending strike after six days](#)  
[CBS NEWS: Los Angeles teachers overwhelmingly OK "historic" pact ending 6-day strike](#)  
[FOX NEWS: Los Angeles teachers reach tentative deal to end strike, could return to classrooms Wednesday](#)  
[LA DAILY NEWS: LAUSD, UTLA hammer out agreement to end teachers strike and usher in 'a new chapter in education'](#)  
[HOY LOS ANGELES: Teachers and the Los Angeles school district agree to end the strike](#)  
[NPR: Los Angeles Teachers Union To Vote On Tentative Agreement To End Strike](#)  
[KPCC: A Tentative Deal In The LA Teachers Strike — Now, Union Members To Vote](#)  
[LAIST: LAUSD Teachers Strike Is Over. Here's What's In The Deal](#)  
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[ABC LOS ANGELES: Thousands volunteer for 2019 homeless count in Los Angeles](#)  
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[LA CONFIDENTIAL: TOMS kicks off #ENDGUNVIOLENCETOGETHER tour](#)

**LA Times**

**The LAUSD strike may be over, but the real work lies ahead**

By: The Times Editorial Board

On Wednesday, some 31,000 Los Angeles teachers will be back in school. Nearly half a million students will back to learning. And parents' lives will be back to normal after the six-day strike and the weeks of uncertainty leading up to it.

It has been a deeply disruptive period — and expensive as well, both for teachers, who went without pay, and for the Los Angeles Unified School District itself, which lost well over \$100 million in state funding tied to student attendance.

On the positive side, the strike did something that could prove transformative in the coming years: It put the importance of a quality education front and center in the public psyche. The urgency and attention generated by the strike must not now be allowed to fade.

For more than a week, teachers, families and supporters marched and picketed in support of their local schools. People

following the news got a crash course in the issues at the heart of the strike — overcrowded classrooms, understaffed campuses, unsustainable pension liabilities, inadequate state funding and the role that privately operated charter schools play in public education.

That's good, because those issues are not going away, and because fixing Los Angeles' schools will ultimately require more money. That, in turn, will require squeezing more aid from Sacramento and could mean voter approval of new taxes as well.

From the beginning, the strike wasn't about whether L.A.'s schools had unmet needs. Both the district and the union — United Teachers Los Angeles — agreed that teachers deserved a raise and that the district should lower class sizes and increase the number of librarians, nurses, counselors and other staff. The fight was over what L.A. Unified could afford, given forecasts that show the district could be insolvent in a few years as pension liabilities grow and demographic changes shrink enrollment.

The settlement announced Monday includes promises by the district that it will gradually reduce class sizes over four years, hire more staff, and open 30 "community schools" that offer extra educational and social services to students and families. The district and the union will create a joint committee that will help negotiate the tricky subject of how and when to "co-locate" charter schools on public school campuses, and they will ask the governor to set up a committee to evaluate the overall impact of charter schools on public education.

The future of charter schools in L.A. has been a contentious backdrop to the strike. The union views charters as a threat to public education, because the publicly-funded, privately-operated schools take students and funding from the district. It's absolutely appropriate for state leaders to scrutinize charter schools and their effects.

The agreement also calls for the district, the union and Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** to work together to advocate for local and state measures to increase education funding, which is woefully insufficient. California ranks near the bottom nationwide in per-pupil spending when the cost of living is factored in.

There's already a measure slated for the 2020 statewide ballot that would remove most businesses from property tax increase limits created by Proposition 13. That could provide a multibillion-dollar boost in state education funding. And there's discussion of putting a local parcel tax increase on the 2020 ballot to raise money for L.A. Unified schools. Any local ballot measure should spell out how the money would be spent and create a strong citizen oversight board to ensure the money is spent wisely and effectively.

Cooperation on funding measures would be a welcome bit of kumbaya after years of bitter combative relations between the district and union leadership. Garcetti deserves credit for stepping forward to mediate the settlement, thereby avoiding a longer strike. Though the mayor has no formal role in the operation or oversight of the school system, he brought the two sides together in City Hall for marathon negotiating sessions and helped smooth the acrimony between union President Alex Caputo-Pearl and schools Supt. Austin Beutner.

L.A.'s public schools are responsible for educating nearly 500,000 children, many of them low-income or non-English speakers or students of color. The success of the city in the years ahead relies upon the existence of safe, adequately funded, high-quality public schools capable of educating a new generation of Angelenos. The strike may be over, but the real work lies ahead.

## **LA Times**

### **In teachers' strike settlement, public support for education was the best news**

By: Steve Lopez

Ring the bell, load the backpacks and start the buses.

School is back in session in L.A. Unified, with teachers returning to work on Wednesday after a six-day strike, the first one in 30 years.

That's good news in just about every way.

For teachers, staff, students and parents.

Did the union win? On some stuff, not everything.

Did the district win? Same answer. It gave a bit, though it mostly held firm on its claim of poverty.

Not to rain on the parade, but I do have a question: Why the heck did it take 20 months and a six-day strike to negotiate this contract?



That can only be seen as a failure of leadership, all around, and not just by the district and the union. There was no sign of our ace city and county officials until the tail end, when someone must have sent out a search party for L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and he hosted the final days of contract negotiations at City Hall.

On pay, class size and support staff, including nurses, librarians and counselors, what the union settled for was not significantly better than what the district had offered before the strike began — a strike that cost teachers about 3% of their salaries for missed days.

It was hard not to root for teachers on their demand for smaller class size, and they did make modest progress. But it's going to take several years to scale up to a reduction of just four students, and that's too long a wait for too small a change.

The union had wanted a moratorium on new charter schools, arguing that their growth has further depleted funding for traditional schools. But that was a philosophical rather than a practical demand, because charter law is a state matter rather than a local one.

Still, the union did score a commitment from the school board to vote on a resolution asking the state to establish a charter school cap. The board has a majority of charter backers at the moment, so I'm guessing the union calculated that it might take back school board control in the next election.

The union also got an agreement for the creation of 20 community schools, which provide wraparound services for students and their families. And that's potentially a very good thing.

But the best thing about the strike, hands down, was the way it galvanized a usually disengaged public. I didn't see that coming, to be honest, so I had it wrong and union leader Alex Caputo-Pearl called it right.

I thought teachers deserved what they were asking for and more, but I didn't see the financially struggling district, with its rapidly declining enrollment, as the right target.

I feared that teachers, the district and students might all lose in a strike, and that the adults should have been able to forge a deal and together demand more support from Sacramento, which they are now pledging to do.

But for days, teachers marched in the rain, beat drums and dominated the news. After years of feeling beaten up and fed up, they saw drivers honking in support, parents joining the marches, and taco trucks showing up to feed them. And through it all, the spotlight was on the ways we've let public school students down in a staggeringly rich state that once sat proudly in the upper ranks of funding per pupil.

"Classes are so big, it can be really hard to learn," high school student Ezra Bitterman said Tuesday morning on the picket line outside the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies, one of the district's best schools. "My AP world history class has 40 students."

That's insane. And do not write to tell me, as many of you do, that you had 50 students in a class when you grew up and everything was fine. Student skill levels cover a wide span today, and having to do more testing than teaching doesn't help anyone.

It was a family affair on the picket line, with Ezra's sister Annabelle — a former LACES student — joining him. Also there was their mother, Cindy, a school district nurse who floats between four schools each week. Which is also insane.

Ezra said his teachers often purchase school supplies, and the school didn't get a much needed paint job for years. It finally did but only because a reality TV show wanted to film there.

"This isn't a contract negotiation," Ezra's playwright father, Shem, wrote to me. "It's a historic battle for the right to a public education — with high quality, credentialed teachers, nurses, coaches, special service providers and the like.... This is an existential battle about democracy."

OK, but let's think even grander.

Why not housing subsidies for teachers and a single-payer healthcare system that cuts out corporate profit and helps pay for them?

Why not free public transit for all students and teachers?

As enrollment dwindles in the state, why not convert unneeded schools into workforce housing for teachers and staff?

We have a new governor who talks as if he wants to change the world, and while we want him to be fiscally responsible,

he's got a budget surplus bigger than the gross national product of most countries.

If the existential battle for democracy is to be won, we need to look past the schoolyard and the contract negotiating rooms and consider the big picture.

In places where students live in stable middle- and upper-income areas, schools do well.

Where students live in poverty, as 80% of L.A. Unified's students do, schools inherit crushing burdens that can't all be overcome.

What I learned in several weeks at the L.A. Unified school with the most homeless students, a school that once sat in the center of San Fernando Valley industrial prosperity, was that schools aren't failing us; we're failing them.

In California, busing, white flight and Proposition 13 teamed up to clobber public schools, and we didn't do much about it. Then came the death of manufacturing, replaced by a service economy that drove more families into poverty, with wages falling and housing costs soaring.

Until somebody smart can invent an economy that works for more people, a full investment in schools is the least we can do.

I know this is a rare kumbaya moment for L.A. of hand-holding among long-feuding parties. But we all know that won't last forever, and little will have been gained if this strike was the end of a conversation rather than the beginning of a campaign.

## **LA Times**

### **LAUSD teachers' strike ends. Teachers to return to classrooms Wednesday**

By: Howard Blume and Sonali Kohli

The Los Angeles teachers union ended its strike Tuesday night, based on overwhelming support for a contract agreement with the school district, union leaders said.

Teachers, nurses, counselors and librarians will be back in their classrooms Wednesday, said Alex Caputo-Pearl, president of United Teachers Los Angeles.

"A vast supermajority are voting yes for the agreement that we made," said Caputo-Pearl, who also acknowledged that many votes still were being tallied.

"We know what the results are going to be," he said, at a news conference at union headquarters in Koreatown on Tuesday night.

It was a dramatic end to a dramatic day that started with Caputo-Pearl and L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner emerging from an all-night negotiating session at City Hall. The intense talks were mediated by L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and his senior staff.

Caputo-Pearl then moved across the street to a massive rally of teachers and supporters in Grand Park, where he hailed "historic" gains in the fight for smaller classes and "fully staffed" campuses.

The strike was an undeniable victory in terms of public attention and support and political momentum, but the contract that emerged was mixed when it comes to the changes that students, teachers and parents will see at schools next year.

And the vote was not the "no concessions" agreement that the union called it in a news release.

The tentative deal includes what amounts to a 6% raise for teachers — with a 3% raise for the last school year and a 3% raise for this school year.

But teachers also lost about 3% of their salary by being on strike for six days, according to the school district. Other employees got the same 6% raise without having to make such a sacrifice. The district had offered 6% to teachers before they went on strike.

Striking teachers were sincere, though, when they said the walkout was always about more than salary. The broader concerns they voiced — about overcrowded classrooms and schools without nurses on hand to help when a student got hurt or fell ill — had a lot to do with why the public responded so warmly and cheered them on, bringing food to the lines and even bringing their children to march alongside the strikers.

For students who rallied and picketed, the strike was a real-life civics lesson, while students inside the thinly staffed

schools were watching movies, doing online coursework or playing with cellphones.

Families identified in particular with teachers' complaints about overly large classes, because class size affects them directly.

But in this area, the contract gains were modest compared with the union's rhetoric about what it would accept.

The agreement calls for a drop of one student per class next year in grades four through 12, one more the year after and two more the year after that. That final-year reduction, however, may not be set in stone. It could be contingent on new tax revenue, a district source told The Times.

A few classes could see bigger drops. If maximum sizes are enforced, some extra-large classes could lose five to 10 students immediately, Caputo-Pearl said.

Campuses targeted for special help — 75 elementary schools and 15 middle schools — will see their class sizes drop by an additional two students. The district has 1,240 schools.

It was not immediately clear whether L.A. Unified was putting more money into smaller classes than it had in its final offer before the strike began — which the union quickly rejected. It could be that the modest reductions proposed by L.A. Unified were simply replaced by different modest reductions that the union preferred.

The union did win on removing a contract provision that has allowed the school district to increase class sizes in times of economic hardship — which is something teachers very much wanted.

What would happen to classes in the future when the district was forced to make budget cuts was not explained, but Caputo-Pearl on Tuesday brought up how the district and teachers responded to the 2008 recession. That crisis led to layoffs, but unions and their members also agreed to unpaid furlough days to cut costs and save jobs.

The goal of the gradual reduction is to get back to class sizes that already were part of the contract that expired in 2017, the union leader said. Those class sizes didn't really exist in practice because the district used the economic hardship provision to make classes larger.

"We have started down a real path to address class size," Caputo-Pearl said.

The pact includes a commitment to provide a full-time nurse in every school, which is a real gain for nurses and students. Currently, the district pays for nurses one day a week at schools, although schools often use discretionary funds to pay for additional days.

The district's offer before the strike guaranteed full-time nurses only in elementary schools and only for next year. The new agreement, which runs through June 2022, pledges to maintain the added health services.

The deal also promises a librarian in every middle and high school. Up to now, these schools could choose not to have a librarian and to use that money for other things. Once again, the union got the district to extend this commitment for longer than one year.

The number of academic counselors at high schools will increase but students may hardly notice, with an "improved" but still unwieldy student-to-counselor ratio of close to 500 to 1.

In the end, union negotiators could not change district officials' determination that L.A. Unified remains at financial risk moving forward. In the joint news conference to announce the agreement, Caputo-Pearl breezed past this question, saying that he and Beutner still had disagreements over some of the budget numbers.

Because of this, union leaders called attention to elements of the deal that are not big budget items, but that still matter to union members or have symbolic importance.

For example, the union has repeatedly raised alarms about the growth of privately operated, mostly nonunion charter schools, which compete with the district for students and the government funding that follows them.

Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, and Beutner agreed to put forward a board resolution "calling on the state to establish a charter school cap and the creation of a governor's committee on charter schools" at the next state Board of Education meeting.

The school board's resolution would have no binding effect on state rules regarding charters, and under state law, local school boards must approve all new valid charter proposals.

Charters also are entitled to space on district-operated campuses. On this front, the union and local teachers will get more information in advance and more of a say in how campuses are shared.

The district committed in the agreement to create 30 community schools — a model that has been tried in Cincinnati and Austin, Texas. These schools are supposed to provide social services to students and family, rich academic programs that include the arts and leadership roles for parents and teachers.

The district also agreed to expand to 28 the number of schools that will no longer conduct random searches of middle and high school students. That provision was especially important to students who marched in support of their teachers.

The union posted the full text of the agreement online. Both the union and the district also have posted summaries.

Some union members expressed disappointment with the results, including a Marshall High teacher who said that her room has 36 desks, but some of her classes have up to 40 students.

"I think it's kind of sad that we had to spend six days getting the numbers that we already had," she said.

An elementary teacher called the deal "marginally better than what was rejected before the strike."

"We were only given three hours to review a 40-page agreement and return to our school site to vote," he said. "I left my stomach-flu wife with my stomach-flu daughter to make my no vote. This agreement was not worth striking over."

Teachers who voted no asked to remain anonymous out of concern about possible conflicts with colleagues.

But Brandon Abraham, who teaches at Hamilton High, called himself a "solid yes."

"No agreement is perfect, and we're back negotiating and fighting for students in no time," he said.

Beutner, who had tried to stop the strike, said the job action had put an important focus on public education, beginning a community conversation.

"Public education is now the topic in every household in our community," he said. "Let's capitalize on that. Let's fix it."

"We can't solve 40 years of under-investment in public education in just one week or just one contract," he said.

Throughout negotiations, district officials said the union demands were far more than the school system could afford.

Before it can take effect, the deal must be reviewed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education, which will report on whether it thinks L.A. Unified can afford the terms. The L.A. school board has scheduled a vote for Jan. 29. The board's approval is expected.

The long-term next step, both the union and the district say, is to harness the momentum of the strike to get voters and lawmakers to provide better funding for schools.

Schools were open on Tuesday, as they were last week — managed by skeleton staffs of administrators and employees who were not on strike. More than two-thirds of students did not show up during the first week of the strike, and attendance remained low Tuesday.

The final key details of the tentative deal were worked out during an all-night bargaining session that ended at 6:15 a.m.

The agreement was announced at a 9:30 a.m. news conference at City Hall by Beutner, Caputo-Pearl and Garcetti, in the same wood-paneled conference room where much of the back-and-forth had taken place.

No one had slept. For the news conference, Caputo-Pearl put on a suit jacket. Beutner put on a tie.

"Today is a day full of good news," Garcetti said in announcing the agreement, which he said came after a "21-hour marathon that wrapped up just before sunrise."

"Everyone on every side has worked tirelessly to make this happen," the mayor said.

The union could have held out longer — and some insiders originally envisioned a longer strike. But public support, which has been strong, might have eroded if the effort dragged on.

The strike has made teachers realize "we're a lot stronger than we thought we were, so now we're not going to let things slide," said Nancy De La Torre, a first-grade teacher at Corona Avenue Elementary School in Bell.

She said she knew that the union was not going to get everything it asked for.

"At some point, you've got to compromise," she said.

#### **New York Times**

#### **California Today: Eric Garcetti on the Teachers' Strike: 'I Could Do Things Other People Weren't Able to Do'**

By: Jill Cowan

After about a week on the picket lines, Los Angeles teachers and district officials reached a deal yesterday to end a historic strike that put the struggles of public schools front and center for a national audience.

And although Mayor **Eric Garcetti** of Los Angeles has previously shied away from involving himself in the affairs of the nation's second-largest school system, with the brighter spotlight and a potential 2020 presidential bid on the horizon, he jumped into action over the last several days, acting as a kind of mediator.

My colleague Jennifer Medina, who's been following the strike closely, spoke to Mr. Garcetti about the strike. Here's part of their conversation.

*Jennifer Medina: Before the strike, contract negotiations had stretched on for nearly two years. How and why did you step up to get involved as a mediator?*

Eric Garcetti: I have a good relationship with the school district and the union knows me and trusts me, so it seemed clear that I could do things other people weren't able to do. The depth of the lack of the communication took my breath away. Everybody had an excuse to say, 'We're not going to sit down.' There's plenty of blame, but I think I can help people get to know each other. In August, I started these conversations and then got more involved in December, saying you should be sitting down with each other and offered City Hall or even my office. There was just a lot of mistrust at the beginning. I laid down some ground rules: no surprises, positivity, confidentiality and a commitment — nobody was going to walk away from the table.

*You called this a "new day" for public schools in Los Angeles — do you think this will significantly change the public's attitude about public education?*

Absolutely. For 10 or 15 years, it's just been: Are you pro-charter or pro-union? There hasn't been a culture of cooperation. I said from all along, I will only stay involved if we move beyond that.

*The final round of negotiations stretched into dawn Tuesday morning. Did you ever think a deal might not happen?*

It almost all fell apart this morning. It had gone over the cliff. We had done all the other items — I think there were 27 other issues that had been resolved by then. But we still had a disagreement about the class size cap. The teachers have for so long seen class size as an unachievable, never-enforced ideal. Superintendent Austin Beutner really wanted to hold on to the prerogative to change it if he needed to. I said it was time for a new day on this, because I think it's the right thing to do.

*What do you see as the future of charter schools here? Will we stop seeing their growth in Los Angeles or in the rest of the state?*

I'm very agnostic on whether our schools are charters or noncharters. I think we should focus on the schools we already have and not have more charters pull away from the district to continue their expansion. We should have more accountability on what's the costs and consequences of having these charter schools.

*How will the district come up with the money to pay for all this?*

I think they realized they could stretch further than they initially thought, while the union realized they could get something in every category they wanted. I think this is a new day to say how people can come together, not just for one philosophy versus another. It's about making labs of innovation, about a joint commitment to make these schools work for kids who are already there.

#### **LA Daily News**

#### **Will helping fix the teachers strike help Eric Garcetti become president?**

By: Kevin Modesti

In some potentially important ways, **Eric Garcetti's** presidential hopes got a lift Tuesday morning when the Los Angeles mayor helped end the teachers strike in the nation's second-largest school district.

But Garcetti's role in the settlement between officials of Los Angeles Unified and the teachers union is hardly a springboard to the White House — and it might even have a downside, political observers said in interviews.

The pluses are clear for Garcetti, who is thought to be preparing to launch what would be a long-shot campaign for the 2020 Democratic nomination.

First, it lends credence to the claim that a big-city mayor would make a good president because he or she has dealt with tangible problems. That's a theme that might resonate well with voters frustrated by ideological battles and partisan standoffs in Washington, D.C., including the ongoing partial shutdown of the federal government.

Also, to the extent that United Teachers Los Angeles is happy with the settlement, Garcetti's involvement in the agreement might appeal to Democratic activists who generally support unions and teachers.

At the very least, the teachers' likely return to work Wednesday after a nine-day strike clears the way for Garcetti to embark on a national campaign without being accused of ignoring a crisis at home.

"It plays into a message that the mayor is someone who brings people together and gets the job done," said Jeffrey Hernandez, a political science professor at East L.A. College. "The only negative is if people felt it (the strike) went on too long. I don't see that happening. It wasn't really his ballgame (when the strike started)."

"Voters sometimes look for a contrast with the current incumbent," said Kyle Kondik, managing editor for Sabato's Crystal Ball, the election forecasting site run by University of Virginia political scientist Larry Sabato. "An accomplished manager (of a major city) would present a nice contrast with the current president (Donald Trump)."

But analysts saw reasons that Garcetti's star turn Tuesday morning — standing at a City Hall lectern and announcing the strike settlement following all-night talks — won't instantly turn his image from mayoral to presidential:

- The more that Garcetti supporters portray the settlement as a major problem solved by the 47-year-old second-term mayor, the more opponents will point to other problems that remain unsolved, most notably the L.A. homelessness crisis. Garcetti was instrumental in passing city and county ballot measures to fund anti-homelessness projects, but the effects are years away. (The same goes for Garcetti's successes in passing mass-transit ballot measures and bringing the 2028 Summer Olympics to L.A.)

"It was a big coup for him to get that stage," said California Republican Party treasurer and former Downey mayor Mario Guerra, referring to the strike-ending announcement. "But there are a lot of things that need fixing here in Los Angeles. Everybody's always looking for the next ladder up (to higher office). I think he should keep his campaign promises and fix the city first."

- The apparent triumph for Garcetti, who publicly became involved in the negotiations shortly after the strike began Jan. 14, could blow up in his face if he overplays his hand by trying to overstate his role or the significance of the achievement.
- Even if he plays the deal-maker card right, Garcetti's presidential bid won't get a boost unless the rest of America notices. As of Tuesday afternoon the end of the L.A. teachers strike wasn't a prominent headline on the Associated Press, New York Times or Washington Post websites.

In any case, Garcetti's successful intervention in the standoff over teachers' pay, class sizes and charter schools doesn't remove other obstacles to a successful campaign for the Democratic nomination. Nobody has ever vaulted directly from mayor to president. (At least three other mayors have entered or are considering the 2020 race: Mitch Landrieu of New Orleans, Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.) And Garcetti would start the campaign less well-known than the acknowledged leading contenders, who come mostly from the ranks of U.S. Senate and state governors.

"Ultimately, he's someone who's going to have to establish himself on the national stage," said Kondik, the elections analyst from Virginia.

Garcetti wouldn't even begin as the best-known Californian. U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris announced her candidacy Monday.

But Hernandez, the East L.A. College political scientist, didn't think Harris' prominence changes the calculus for Garcetti.

"I don't think he has to worry about another Californian in the field," Hernandez said. "He has to worry about whether his personality will excite voters."

Garcetti spokesman Yusef Robb responded to a reporter's question about a potential Garcetti announcement with an email Tuesday saying: "We'll update you when there's an update!"

Hernandez called the teachers-strike settlement a net plus for Garcetti's presidential hopes.

"It makes him look a little more productive than would otherwise be the case."

## **Associated Press**

### **Los Angeles Teachers Head Back to School After Reaching Deal**

LOS ANGELES — Tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers planned to return to work Wednesday after voting to ratify a deal between their union and school officials, ending a six-day strike in the nation's second-largest district.

"I voted 'yes,' to approve," said second-grade teacher Wendy Perez. "I think the union negotiated in good faith, and I'd like to believe the district did too."

A crowd of teachers roared its approval after the tentative deal was announced at City Hall following a 21-hour bargaining session.

While all votes hadn't been counted by Tuesday night, union President Alex Caputo-Pearl said preliminary balloting showed educators overwhelmingly approving the proposal.

"A vast supermajority are voting 'yes'...therefore, ending the strike and heading back to schools tomorrow," he said.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, accompanied by leaders of United Teachers Los Angeles and the LA Unified School District, called it an "historic agreement" that will usher in a "new day" for public education in the city.

The deal came as teachers in Denver voted to go on strike as soon as next Monday. More than 5,000 educators would be affected. The main sticking point is increasing base pay and lessening teachers' reliance on one-time bonuses for having students with high test scores or working in a high-poverty school.

In Oakland, California, some teachers called in sick last week as part of an unofficial rally over their contract negotiations, which also hinge partly on a demand for smaller class sizes.

Teachers hoped to build on the "Red4Ed" movement that began last year in West Virginia and moved to Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arizona, Colorado and Washington state. It spread from conservative states with "right to work" laws that limit the ability to strike to the more liberal West Coast with strong unions.

In Los Angeles, thousands of boisterous educators and their supporters cheered as the tentative contract agreement was announced earlier in the day.

The deal includes a 6 percent pay hike and a commitment to reduce class sizes over four years, according to statements from the district and the union.

It will also add more than 600 nursing positions over the next three school years, which pleased Perez. Teachers had complained that some schools only had a nurse on campus one day a week, she said.

"It was a matter of time before a student got very sick, with no nurse around," said Perez. "We've got kids with peanut allergies, asthma, diabetes. We need nurses."

Additional counselors and librarians are also part of the planned increase in support staff.

The new contract also eliminates a longstanding clause that gave the district authority over class sizes, officials said. Many schools will see a class size reduction of about four students in three years — though 90 high-needs campuses will see six fewer students per class during that time.

Those reductions were the main reason teacher Charles Pak voted to ratify — but he said he was happy with the deal as a whole.

"We got almost everything we asked for, just about," said Pak, who teaches 8th grade English. "So I think the strike was positive overall."

District Superintendent Austin Beutner said he was delighted the deal was reached. But he hinted that financial challenges remained.

"The issue has always been how do we pay for it?" Beutner said. "That issue does not go away now that we have a contract. We can't solve 40 years of underinvestment in public education in just one week or just one contract."



Under the agreement, the district, the union and the mayor's office will work jointly to "advocate for increased county and state funding" for Los Angeles schools, according to the UTLA summary.

The district maintained that the union's demands could bankrupt the school system, which is projecting a half-billion-dollar deficit this budget year and has billions obligated for pension payments and health coverage for retired teachers.

The Board of Education was expected to move quickly to ratify the deal, which would expire at the end of June 2022.

Kelly Maloney said students at the downtown Los Angeles high school where he teaches English told him they're ready to return to normal after spending a week in large groups supervised by small numbers of substitute teachers.

"They're bored," he said of his 12th grade pupils. "Going back is going to be a big transition for everyone— students, administrators, teachers."

## **Reuters**

### **Los Angeles teachers to resume classes Wednesday after vote on contract deal**

By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - The union for more than 30,000 striking Los Angeles teachers clinched a tentative contract deal with the second-largest U.S. school district on Tuesday, paving the way for classes to resume for nearly half a million students after a weeklong walkout.

Hours later, the president of the United Teachers Los Angeles union, Alex Caputo-Pearl, announced that rank-and-file members were voting to ratify the 3-1/2-year deal by a "vast supermajority," thus officially ending the strike.

Teachers who walked off the job on Jan. 14 in their first strike against the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in 30 years were due back in the classroom at all 1,200 schools on Wednesday.

The union president and two other principals in the talks, LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner and Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who served as mediator, all characterized the settlement as historic.

The deal, announced at a City Hall news conference by the three leaders, acceded to many of the union's demands for improving classroom conditions that all sides in the labor dispute agreed have suffered from decades of underfunding.

Caputo-Pearl credited the striking teachers with transforming a contract campaign into a social movement that reawakened people to the long-neglected difficulties facing public education in California, and across the country.

He vowed to leverage momentum from the strike into a long-term quest for additional resources at the state level, including a campaign to roll back property tax restrictions widely seen as stunting fiscal support for public schools.

The agreement, capping five days of marathon negotiations that ended at dawn on Tuesday, includes an immediate 6 percent across-the-board pay raise for teachers, slightly less than the 6.5 percent hike they sought.

But Caputo-Pearl said defining features of the deal will phase in significant class-size reductions while hiring hundreds more librarians, nurses and guidance counselors. The district also agreed to remove a provision of the old contract allowing it to unilaterally waive caps on class sizes.

The deal provides for student numbers in all high school math and English classes to drop immediately by at least seven, Caputo-Pearl said.

In addition, the school board would consider a non-binding resolution urging the state legislature to cap the expansion of independently operated charter schools, which the union argues divert resources from traditional classroom instruction.

## **DEAL HAILED AS MAJOR UNION VICTORY**

Caputo-Pearl told a celebratory rally of thousands of teachers outside City Hall, site of the final round of talks, that they had achieved a major victory in attaining the bulk of their contract objectives while galvanizing public support.

"It is very rare that you go to the bargaining table with as many demands as we had and you win almost every single one of them," Caputo-Pearl added.

Leaders of the school district - which does not answer to the mayor - had insisted throughout the talks they largely supported the union's goals but lacked funds to satisfy the demands without risking insolvency.

Beutner became a target of criticism from teachers by resisting their demands to commit more of the district's \$1.8 billion



reserve to easing overcrowded classrooms and hiring more support staff. He said it was needed to retain financial stability in the face of rising pension and healthcare costs.

"We're spending every nickel we have," Beutner told the news conference.

Caputo-Pearl said that ultimately some of the district's reserves were tapped to close the deal. According to its accounting, the district will spend \$403 million just to hire support staff and cut class sizes.

Beutner said Los Angeles still had a long way to go, citing figures showing that LAUSD spends roughly \$16,000 per pupil per year, compared with \$22,000 in New York City public schools.

The Los Angeles strike followed a flurry of teacher walkouts over salaries and school funding in several states last year, such as Arizona, Oklahoma and West Virginia.

In contrast to those states, the Los Angeles teachers faced a predominantly Democratic political establishment more sympathetic to their cause.

Labor tension still simmers in other big-city school districts. Results are expected this week of Saturday's strike authorization vote by Denver teachers after they rejected a contract offer. Teachers in Oakland, California, are also due to vote this week on strike authorization.

Caputo-Pearl said a preliminary tally of electronic votes cast by two-thirds of LAUSD teachers showed more than 80 percent in support. A final tabulation of paper ballots will be announced on Wednesday, he said. The L.A. school board is expected to formally approve the deal on Jan. 29.

## **CNN**

### **LA teachers return to classrooms after 6-day strike**

By: Holly Yan

(CNN) -- Los Angeles teachers will return to their classrooms Wednesday after a six-day strike ended late Tuesday with teachers and staff throwing their support behind a new agreement.

Preliminary numbers from a vote by members of the United Teachers Los Angeles show that "a vast super majority" voted yes, ending the strike, UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl told reporters late Tuesday.

He said the counting of the ballots will continue on Wednesday.

"It's a historic day today in Los Angeles," he said.

"Our members after a strike that began on Monday, January 14, are going to be heading back to school, to the students that they love and the classrooms that they love and the schools that they love and are committed to," he added.

The new agreement with the district includes a 6% raise, a gradual decrease in class sizes over the next few years and more counselors, librarians and nurses.

"It is a historic agreement," Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said before Tuesday's vote. Garcetti helped mediate between the Los Angeles Unified School District and the union leaders. "It gets to lower class sizes. It gets to proper support staff."

### ***L.A. Unified ✓@LASchools***

*.@LASchools today announced that it has reached an agreement with UTLA on a new contract that provides a 6% salary increase for educators, reduces class sizes, adds a significant number of librarians, counselors and nurses, and maintains the fiscal solvency of the school district*

Caputo-Pearl praised the more than 30,000 teachers and staff members who picketed for six days, often under cold rain.

"I'm so proud of our members, classroom teachers, counselors, nurses, librarians, psychologists," Caputo-Pearl said earlier Tuesday.

While both sides gathered in harmony Tuesday, "the strike was painful, and it had a cost," Garcetti said.

Thousands of teachers marched in the rain demanding more school staffing and higher salaries.

The first week of the strike cost the school district more than \$125 million. That's because the state of California funds schools based on daily attendance, and the number of students going to school plunged during the strike.

Some parents said they purposefully kept their kids out of school in hopes that the money drain suffered by the district would lead to a resolution more quickly.

### *Why so many teachers toughed it out*

For the past six school days, educators hit the picket lines to demand smaller class sizes, higher salaries and more school nurses and counselors.

"We work with students every day who face trauma and face hardship," Garfield High School teacher Erika Huerta said. "So we're doing this as a life passion to improve our community."

Teachers and students who joined them on the picket lines decried class sizes of 45 or more. They said many students aren't able to get the individual attention they need to effectively learn.

So the standoff between UTLA and LAUSD came down to two issues: how much money to spend on more school staffing and teachers' raises, and whether the school district actually has that kind of money.

The union wanted the school district to pony up more money to meet its demands, but LAUSD said its \$1.8 billion in reserves is already earmarked for education spending during this three-year budget cycle.

The school district agreed that schools need smaller class sizes, more staffing and bigger raises for teachers.

"The issue has always been how do we pay for it," Beutner said. "We can't solve 40 years of underinvestment in public education in just one week, in just one contract."

### *Firefighters and celebrities join the fight*

Firefighters marched Tuesday in support of Los Angeles teachers on strike. During their week-long strike, teachers received support from a barrage of actors, musicians and politicians.

On Tuesday, they got a big boost from members of the International Association of Firefighters, who are in Los Angeles for a conference this week.

"We stand with LA teachers," read signs held by dozens of firefighters as they rallied during a parade Tuesday morning.

### *United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLANow*

*It's official, the firefighters have joined the teachers. #UTLStrong #LAUSDStrong*

Some chanted "fighting for justice" as they rode atop a fire truck.

A sign posted on the front of the red truck said "#RedForEd" -- a familiar slogan from the recent wave of teachers' strikes nationwide.

## **ABC Los Angeles**

### **LA teachers back in class Wednesday as union approves LAUSD deal**

By: Marc Cota-Robles and Josh Haskell

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- The Los Angeles Unified School District and the teachers union reached an agreement to end the teachers strike, officials announced Tuesday.

The teachers union, United Teachers Los Angeles, announced Tuesday night that members approved the deal and will be returning to classrooms Wednesday.

"It's a historic day today in Los Angeles," said Alex Caputo-Pearl, president of UTLA. "We have preliminary numbers from the vote on our agreement. And they show that a vast supermajority are voting yes for the agreement that we made with LAUSD. Therefore, ending the strike and heading back to schools tomorrow."

He said early results show about 80-83 percent of members voting in favor of the deal. Votes were still being counted and final results would be announced Wednesday.

Tuesday marked the sixth school day of the strike, which is the first work stoppage by LAUSD teachers in 30 years.

The agreement was first announced Tuesday morning at a joint press conference held by **Garcetti**, LAUSD

Superintendent Austin Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"The strike that nobody wanted is now behind us," Beutner said.

Garcetti said the then tentative agreement includes lower class sizes, community-based schools, improved support staff and a salary increase for teachers. Beutner said the agreement included a 6-percent salary increase for teachers and a "meaningful class-size reduction."

LAUSD later in the day released a statement detailing the agreement:

- 6 percent salary increase: 3 percent in 2017-18, 3 percent in 2018-19.
- Increase in nurse staffing: 150 in 2019-20, then 150 in 2020-21 and 316 in 2021-22.
- Increase in librarians in secondary schools: 39 in 2019-20 and 39 in 2020-21.
- Increase in counselors: 17 in 2019-20 and 60 in 2021-22.
- Reduce class size by four students: In grades 4-12, reduction by one in 2019-20, then one in 2020-21 and two in 2021-22.
- District increased spending on staffing and class-size reduction: \$175 million in 2019-21 and \$228 million in 2021-22.

Other details highlighted by UTLA include the LAUSD board voting on a resolution asking the state for a cap on charter schools; and the district designating 20 "community schools" by 2019 and another 10 by June 30, 2020. The schools will have additional funding and union positions.

The teachers union had been fighting for higher wages and a commitment to lower class sizes.

LAUSD and UTLA officials were involved in bargaining discussions late into the evening Monday.

Following the joint announcement by Garcetti, Beutner and Caputo-Pearl, thousands of teachers - clad in their signature red attire - rallied outside Los Angeles City Hall.

"We're very pleased right now because that's what we wanted - we wanted to go back to our classrooms," teacher Janet Curtade said. "We miss our students. We know that it's been hard for them, for their parents, but for us also."

Another teacher, Martha Garibay, said she and her colleagues "absolutely have faith in our union, that they're doing the right thing for our students."

"We're all here together," she added, "and we're fighting for our students. We're not fighting for ourselves - we're fighting for our students and what our students and public education deserve."

UTLA said earlier that even if a tentative agreement is reached, it cannot be immediately enacted until a vote was taken across the entire membership.

Tuesday morning, hundreds of firefighters marched in solidarity with striking teachers in downtown Los Angeles. The firefighters marched alongside the UTLA's music teachers Red for Ed Marching Band. The large crowd was led by a vintage red fire engine.

The large crowd began its march from Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles and made its way toward Miguel Contreras High School.

Also covered by: [CBS Los Angeles](#), [NBC Los Angeles](#)

## **LA Daily News**

### **In deal between LAUSD and teachers, some parties gained ground while others gave it up**

By: Ariella Plachta

After sighing a breath of relief Tuesday morning on the picket line outside Taft High School, teachers returned to campus in the afternoon to vote on a tentative agreement reached between UTLA and LA Unified School District like UTLA's other 30,000 members.

The new contract secures a 6 percent wage increase — 3 percent retroactive to the 2017-18 school year and another 3 percent retroactive to July 1, 2018 — and commits to a gradual decrease in class sizes over the coming three years, hiring of more support staff and some other measures that were previously tabled like limits on standardized testing and random police searches.

The teachers' vote caps a months-long public battle framed by the union as a "fight for the soul of public education" and by the district as an earnest attempt to deliver on union demands with an unfortunately short supply of funds.

Now that the dust is beginning to settle and teachers look forward to returning to school Wednesday morning, what actors have emerged as the victors and who the more vanquished?

### *Teachers*

In Taft Hall Tuesday evening, teachers socialized and filled out a simple ballot without a formal meeting or discussion that will get filed to UTLA leadership. They're expected to resoundingly vote to approve the contract head back to school Wednesday morning.

While class sizes won't drastically drop with the new numbers, union leadership has celebrated the elimination of a contract clause – Section 1.5 – that had acted as a security valve for the district to bump up class sizes in times of financial strain.

"It's a compromise," said Taft union chapter chair Richard Derry about the deal. "If we were going to see a drastic difference in class, the district would have to hire thousands of teachers immediately."

Some teachers are feeling "it's not clear enough, not long-term. There's this sense of it being not that significant. But I voted yes. We'll see."

### *LAUSD*

Throughout the course of the strike, LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner prioritized keeping schools open and safe and emphasized a collaborative push for more state funding. While much of negotiations have been kept behind closed doors since they picked back up last Thursday, School Board Vice President Nick Melvoin said the district made some compromises.

"I think there were questions of control," he said, adding that the district let go on some aims to reward high-performing teachers and healthcare benefits. "I think we compromised financially ... I think we were less risk averse than we might have liked to be and we stretched a bit to make it work."

Melvoin also said he wished the wave of support for public education seen during UTLA's strike "was more evident throughout the year. I've been saying everybody who honked for a teacher and tweeted for a teacher should vote for a teacher."

### *UTLA*

By executing a high-turnout and smoothly run strike across the nation's second largest school district for the past six days, United Teachers Los Angeles has undoubtedly showed its organizational power.

Author and New York Times opinion writer Miriam Pawel said that if the union has done two things exceptionally well, it has been to shift the narrative surrounding public education and show its strength in numbers.

"They have been very effective in generating a lot of public support for teachers, which has not always been the case," she said.

"They defined the narrative as not just about salaries but rather for the public good in Los Angeles. It's a clear moral victory if nothing else."

### *Taxpayers*

LA Unified receives the better part of its budget from state coffers, ergo the purses of California taxpayers. This morning, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** made a point to thank new governor Gavin Newsom in his announcement of the deal.

But it's unclear how much of an increase the new state budget will see in K-12 education. Both district and union officials have floated the idea of campaigning for a parcel tax and a Proposition 13 split roll measure.

The district's spending increase "will ultimately come from the taxpayer, yes," reflected UCLA professor of Public Affairs Daniel J.B. Mitchell.

"But on the other hand every time there's any polling where people are asked about priorities for the state budget, education comes up as very high. It's just a characteristic of the average California voter."

### *Charter schools*

Charter schools took a hit in the lead-up to this strike, and the district seemed to give some ground in the debate over them. Once bastions of experimentation in the LAUSD, their rapid growth has been a focus of union efforts to lobby for more regulation.

The new contract includes the potential execution of a study and school board vote on whether to establish a charter school cap and it institutes a new state committee on charter schools.

Charter schools, which are publicly funded but privately managed, have proven to be perhaps the most contentious issue in this labor dispute. They remain popular among parents and some teachers as an alternative to public schools, yet critics contend their expansion undermines the welfare of those very campuses.

"It doesn't mean much," said Jeanne Allen, the CEO of the pro-charter Center for Education Reform in Washington, D.C., of the new deal's measures. "The district rolled over on that one to try to make peace."

"It just means there's more i's to be dotted and t's to be crossed but great schools will continue to be replicated and I don't think their attempt to control or stymie public charter schools will be sustained," she added.

## **LA Daily News**

### **What will make LAUSD teachers' deal work? New outside funding – and teamwork**

By: Sarah Favot

Teachers, board members and experts had just begun to scrutinize the landmark deal that effectively ended the Los Angeles Unified School District's strike on Tuesday.

But one thing is clear: The agreement will call for a complex mix of flexibility and cleverness from the district to secure an influx of new funding from the state and elsewhere to fend off the financial disaster that LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner has been warning of since the day he took office.

The toughest challenge, UTLA negotiator Arlene Inouye said, was the fundamental issue at the heart of the strike: How can a district that's says it is teetering on the brink of insolvency afford to fund such a deal?

This conflict certainly wasn't all about pay. The district and teachers were actually very close on salary in the final offer the district submitted and teachers spurned, opting instead to head for the picket lines on Jan. 14.

"By working together [with the district], we're looking at money from the state, we're looking at money from the county. Our pool of money got bigger," she said, adding that conversations with Gov. Gavin Newsom and State Superintendent Tony Thurmond were already underway.

The teachers actually got a little less than the 6.5 percent increase they sought just days before their walkout.

The union agreed to the district's proposed salary offer of a 6 percent pay raise, which includes a 3 percent boost retroactive to the 2017-18 school year, and another 3 percent retroactive to July 1, 2018. It's unclear if teachers will be paid for the days they spent on strike.

Classroom size turned out to be the most significant sticking point between the sides. That last pre-strike district offer aimed to spend \$130 million to reduce class sizes and add support staff.

The union turned it down, however, because it was only a one-time investment, not a long-range formula.

Tuesday's agreement requires that most classes be reduced by four students in three years. Some schools with more poignant needs may see a bigger drop.

The deal calls for a class-size reduction in grades four through 12 of one student during the 2019-20 school year. An additional one-student reduction in those classes will take place 2020-21 followed by a two student reduction in the 2021-22 school year.

The new contract also would eliminate language that had previously allowed the district to exceed agreed-upon class-size limits in times of economic hardship.

LAUSD also committed to hire:

- 150 full-time nurses in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years and 316 nurses in 2021-22 to provide a full-time nurse at every school five days a week.
- 39 librarians in 2019-20 and 2020-21, which would provide a full-time librarian at every secondary school campus five days a week.

- 17 additional full-time counselors by Oct. 1 and 60 additional counselors in 2021-22, creating a counselor-student ratio of 500 to 1 per secondary school according to the union.

The total committed to achieve all these goals: \$403 million.

A nationally recognized education expert said the deal shows that teachers were right to push for support staff and reduced class sizes. Initially supportive of the district, Pedro Noguera, an education professor at UCLA, said his opinion changed as the strike unfolded.

"Looking at it from the outside, it seems like the teachers were right to push and they were right — there was more money in the system and outside of the system to address the needs," he said Noguera.

The agreement followed six days of contract negotiations and talks with local, county and state leaders to find additional resources to meet the union's demands, officials said.

"It's looking at LAUSD in a different way," Inouye said, describing negotiators' efforts to find new sources of money.

But where exactly does the additional money come from? Other levels of government.

The deal calls for the union, district and mayor's office to jointly push for increases in county and state education funding. Some of those dollars have already been snagged:

- The county Board of Supervisors last week appropriated \$10 million for mental health counselors in elementary schools and also requested county staff to find additional funding for more nurses.
- In his budget proposal, Gov. Gavin Newsom allocated \$140 million in new funding for the district.
- And it's unclear if federal dollars could be tapped, though the current adversarial relationship between state officials and President Donald Trump's administration could complicate that effort.

Beutner, L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl said they would be lobbying state legislators in Sacramento as soon as budget negotiations are underway.

It also calls on the mayor to endorse the Schools and Communities First ballot measure, which will go before voters in November 2020 and would roll back Proposition 13 limits on property taxes for commercial buildings, increasing tax revenue for public education.

For now, all of the teacher's demands will be funded by the district's \$2 billion reserve fund — a strategy that set off much heated debate over the past two years.

Union leaders called that rainy-day pool unnecessarily huge. But district officials maintained the dollars were set aside to fend off projected financial shortfalls that they considered very real — and imminent.

"We kept pointing to that and saying, 'You can use that money for what we're asking,' Inouye said. "We showed the costs and there was money enough for the nurses, the counselors, the class sizes and so forth."

Regardless of the renewed effort to seek out additional sources of revenue, LAUSD chief Beutner said financial challenges did not go away amid the cordial handshakes during Tuesday's widely watched news conference that set off celebrations on picket lines.

"We have tremendous concerns about insolvency," Beutner said, "tremendous concerns."

"But what we were able to do is recognize that part of all this is to balance that with the needs of our students and educators in our schools and the outpouring of support for public education," Beutner added.

On the issue of charter schools, according to the union, the proposal calls for the LAUSD board to approve a resolution asking the state to impose a cap on charter schools and to create a governor's committee on charter schools.

The tentative agreement also calls on the district to provide lists in December and February of each year of schools "threatened by co-location." At each site on the list, a union "co-location coordinator" will be chosen to be part of the development of the shared-use agreement.

The proposal also includes a requirement that the district designate and fund 20 community schools by June 30, and another 10 such schools by June 30, 2020

Will it all work? Garcetti, the negotiations' impromptu "host," was confident simply because of the key players engaged in the marathon talks.



Any deal Caputo-Pearl signed off on would have to be good for teachers, the mayor said. And Beutner wouldn't approve a deal that wasn't financially responsible, he said.

The deal, it appears, will call for district and union officials to exhibit considerable teamwork, something that hasn't been evident the past few years.

"We're going to go to the voters, go to the public and make sure we've more resources," Beutner said, "not just to make sure students do better, but to make sure that we are solvent."

## **LA Daily News**

### **UTLA's lead dealmaker on nailing an end to the LAUSD teacher strike: 'We just said we're not going to leave if we don't get these things'**

By: Bradley Belmont

Arlene Inouye, the chair of United Teachers Los Angeles bargaining team, hadn't slept in more than 27 hours when she walked off the stage at the teacher's strike rally in Grand Park on Tuesday.

While wading through the crowd around the stage, she couldn't move more than a few feet through without getting inundated with hugs, handshakes, and selfies.

It was a landmark moment for Inouye, who in the drama of the first Los Angeles Unified School District teacher strike in 30 years emerged as a key player.

"This is the height of my career," she told reporters, describing the honor she felt when she was tapped by UTLA to lead negotiations with the district.

"I knew that we would win, but I had no idea how much we would win," she said.

The rally on Tuesday capped off a weekend of marathon negotiating sessions — the last ending just as dawn was starting to break, hours before thousands of teachers would gather in Grand Park.

"It was very intense," Inouye said. "We were at that table for hours on end. We didn't even go out to eat, the food was brought in there."

Some of the toughest items on the agenda were left for the very end, like eliminating teacher caps, which would allow the district to hire thousands of more teachers.

She there was a promise from the LA Unified School Board to make a recommendation for a charter cap.

"We just said we're not going to leave if we don't get these things," she said. "They knew we were serious about it because we were almost out the door."

After nearly two years of negotiations, Inouye said that the strike made all the difference.

"When you have 60,000 people come out and you have thousands of people on the picket lines, and you have dancing in the streets, you have members feeling the sense of community — that's our power," she said.

But it wasn't just the strike — L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** also played a key role, she said, because he was able to hold the district accountable.

"Before, it was the district and us and there was nobody they could be accountable to," she noted.

The toughest challenge, she said, was still the fundamental issue at the heart of the strike: How can a district that's teetering on the brink of insolvency afford all of the union's demands?

"By working together [with the district], we're looking at money from the state, we're looking at money from the county. Our pool of money got bigger," she said, adding that conversations with Gov. Gavin Newsom and State Superintendent Tony Thurmond were already underway.

"It's looking at LAUSD in a different way," she said, describing negotiators' efforts to find new sources of money. But, for now, all of the teacher's demands will be afforded by the district's \$2 billion reserve fund, something that for so long was a sticking point.

"We kept pointing to that and say, 'You can use that money for what we're asking.' We showed the costs and there was money enough for the nurses, the counselors, the class sizes and so forth," she said.

## **LA Daily News**

### **'Celebrate good times...' is the soundtrack as picketers exult to news of end to LAUSD strike**

By: Ariella Plachta

Waves of relief and elation passed over the throng of teachers picketing outside Taft Charter High School on Tuesday morning as Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** spoke the words "We have an agreement."

Exclamations of "Garcetti for President!" and "What do we do now?" could be heard as the news spread through the crowd watching the historic City Hall news conference on cell phones.

Hugs, handshakes were suddenly everywhere, as well as a singalong to Queen's "We Are The Champions" and an impromptu dance line to "Celebrate" by Kool and the Gang.

Garcetti made the announcement at a joint news conference at City Hall, with LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner and Alex Caputo-Pearl, president of United Teachers Los Angeles, which represents the teachers, at his side.

After months of squabbling, the key players cordially thanked one another and called the deal "a good agreement."

"The strike is painful and had a cost," added the mayor. "But there is no question to get here, the strike helped."

The contract must still be ratified by UTLA members but that approval is expected. Both sides hope for quick ratification that would send students and teachers back to classrooms Wednesday morning.

Complete details of the deal were not yet released, but it appeared teachers would get a 6 percent raise, not the 6.5 percent they were initially demanding, Beutner said.

Also included: Reduced class sizes, more nurse and counseling resources at local schools and tighter regulation of charter schools, a key issue underlying the dispute, Caputo-Pearl said.

"We're elated," said teacher Richard Derry, who has acted as a union-chapter chair — and felt the weight of responsibility for teachers.

"Considering Alex and the bargainers' commitment to our issues," he said. "I think it's going to be a pretty good deal."

For some, the joy was accompanied by a dose of skepticism.

"I want to see the fine print," said special education teacher David Douglas. "But it seems like they hit most of the main points."

UTLA chapter leaders were scheduled to meet Tuesday afternoon to receive the agreement and voting materials. Next, union members will vote on the agreement at school sites at 5 p.m. The LAUSD board must also approve the agreement.

Weary from a week on the picket lines, teachers at Taft began the morning with more anxiety as rumors circled that negotiators were heading into another day of bargaining. Later, buzz emerged that a deal may be imminent.

For many of the 30,000 UTLA members who have been out of their classrooms without pay for a week, another full week of striking would have been a daunting reality.

Some families, like that of Taft English teacher Tammy O'Neill, include two teachers — who rely on LAUSD for the entirety of their income.

"It's been really scary not knowing where my next paycheck would come from," said O'Neill. "I'm just very very happy to go back to the classroom."

Derry said the tension had been building for teachers and is glad that a return to class is on the way.

"I was getting midnight messages," he said, "saying 'I can't take this anymore.'"

## **Politico**

### **LA teachers poised to end strike**

By: Kimberly Hefling



The Los Angeles teachers union and leaders in the nation's second-largest district reached a deal on Tuesday to end the six-day teacher strike that's gripped the city's schools.

Under the agreement, teachers would receive a 6 percent raise, classroom sizes would be reduced gradually over four years and more counselors, librarians and nurses would be hired.

The deal, which allows teachers to go back to school on Wednesday, was approved by a "supermajority" of teachers, Alex Caputo-Pearl, the president of the union, said Tuesday evening.

Caputo-Pearl announced the deal earlier on Tuesday, alongside Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Superintendent Austin Beutner, all of whom praised the accord. The agreement ends a strike that started on Jan. 14.

"Today is a day full of good news," said Garcetti, who does not run the schools but helped facilitate five days of negotiations between the two sides that led to the agreement.

Garcetti said union and district leaders stuck with the talks, and agreed "it's time for a new day for education in Los Angeles."

"That new day begins now," Garcetti said. "This is not the end. This is the beginning of making sure that LA gets the schools that they deserve."

Caputo-Pearl said that the "great agreement" would give parents and traditional school teachers more say related to charter schools co-located in the same building, an issue in the negotiations.

The strike is the first in three decades in Los Angeles. More than 30,000 educators participated in picket lines outside school buildings and in downtown marches that generated crowds of tens of thousands of people.

While the district did keep schools open for instruction and meals, a large share of children stayed home most days.

The two sides fought over salary, charter school policies and funding to reduce classroom sizes and pay for nurses, librarians and counselors. Beutner said repeatedly that he wanted to do more, but the district couldn't afford it based on what it receives from the state. Union leaders, in turn, accused the district of being disingenuous about the state of the district's finances.

About 8 out of 10 school kids in Los Angeles qualify for free or reduced lunches, and the teachers argued that schools with class sizes of more than 40 were not acceptable.

Beutner said the contract won't fix 40 years of disinvestment in education in the Los Angeles, but he's hopeful it's a movement in the right direction.

"Public education is now the topic in every household in our community. Let's capitalize on this. Let's fix it so students won't continue to miss out on opportunity for the next 40 years," Beutner said.

He said the district's teachers will be welcomed back with "open arms and warm hearts."

## **Washington Post**

### **Los Angeles teachers reach agreement with district leaders to end strike**

By: Moriah Balingit and Debbie Truong

Teachers in Los Angeles reached a deal with school officials Tuesday to end a strike that affected more than 600,000 students and raised questions about staffing and the future of the nation's second-largest school system.

The accord was announced by Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, Superintendent Austin Beutner and Alex Caputo-Pearl, the president of the teachers union, after an all-night bargaining session. The teachers union late Tuesday approved the accord and announced that teachers will be back in classrooms Wednesday.

"All of us have a huge stake in our schools," Garcetti said. "We have seen over the last few weeks the way the city has rallied around public education. Quite frankly, it's been breathtaking."

According to a summary of the pact released by the union, the district agreed to hire enough teachers to reduce average class size by four students by 2022, which will help relieve overcrowding in schools where classes regularly top 40 students. The district also assented to hiring 300 nurses over the next three years so that every school has a full-time nurse. It also committed to hiring a full-time librarian for every high school, and 17 more counselors. The deal includes a 6 percent pay raise.

Beutner said he still has "tremendous" concerns about the school system's financial health but that those fears must be balanced with students' needs.

"Today and tomorrow, when school opens, begins a new chapter in every classroom," he said, noting that "40 years of underinvestment in public education" can't be solved in one week.

Caputo-Pearl said teachers were expected to review and vote on the contract Tuesday.

"Educators and parents reached a boiling point," Caputo-Pearl said. "It has brought us not only to an agreement but to a commitment to really fight for public education."

Ricardo Vargas, a 17-year-old senior at Dorsey High, showed up at school Tuesday for the first time during the strike after remaining out last week because he heard students were just hanging out in the gymnasium. Vargas, who worked on a campaign to get more money for schools that have significant needs, said he was pleased officials were working to reduce class sizes. But he said he was unsure trimming classroom rosters by a couple of students would make much difference.

Still, he was eager to get back class.

"The break was nice," he said. "But I was missing out on my education."

About 30,000 teachers went on strike Jan. 14, vowing to remain out of classrooms and on picket lines until their demands for smaller class sizes and more support staff were satisfied. The teachers, having already secured a raise and free health care, focused their attention on staffing needs. They sought more instructors so that class sizes could be reduced and called for expanding the cadre of librarians and nurses, who rotate among schools. Educators also wanted more psychologists to better meet the needs of special-education students.

But the teachers and their union, United Teachers Los Angeles, also viewed the strike as a fight for the future of public education in Los Angeles, where charter schools have drawn students and resources away from traditional public schools. They view Beutner, a former investment banker and nonprofit organization executive who had never worked in public education, as being too accommodating to charter schools, which are independently run but publicly funded.

Beutner, who was hired last year to get the district's finances in order, had maintained that the system could not afford the union's demands. The Los Angeles Unified School District, like others across California, has contended with rising health-care costs and growing pension debt.

The strike in Los Angeles drew tens of thousands of teachers, parents and students to the streets, where they picketed in front of schools, rallied at city hall, and marched to the headquarters of the school district and the California Charter Schools Association.

The district kept schools open with skeleton staffs of parent volunteers, administrators and classroom aides.

The job action came a year after teachers in a half-dozen states walked off the job, protesting low pay and poor classroom conditions, and portends another year of teacher activism. About 350 miles north of Los Angeles, in Oakland, Calif., teachers have been preparing for the possibility of a strike as they continue to demand higher wages and more classrooms resources.

Teachers in Denver were set to vote Tuesday on whether to strike after an impasse with the district over salaries. They could strike as soon as Monday. In Virginia, teachers plan to stage a march Monday in Richmond, the state capital, to protest school funding cuts and low wages.

## **NBC News**

### **Los Angeles teachers approve deal ending strike after six days**

By: David K. Li

The Los Angeles Unified School District and its teachers' union reached a tentative labor deal that will bring to an end a six-day strike, and the union's members are voting overwhelmingly to approve it, officials said on Tuesday.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti** praised both the union and school district administrators.

"These are people who are committed to public education," he said. "I do think this is new chapter."

Union members still need to vote on the pact to formally end their strike, which began on Jan. 14.

Both sides predicted that rank-and-file members and the school board would approve the tentative pact and end the strike, which began Jan. 14.

Preliminary voting showed that "a vast super-majority are voting yes," meaning the strike is over and teachers would be returning on Wednesday, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said Tuesday evening.

"Those are preliminary results, but they're so overwhelming that we know what the result is going to be," Caputo-Pearl said. He said the counting of those ballots would continue Wednesday.

Leaders of the union, United Teachers Los Angeles, summarized the tentative agreement as including a 6 percent pay raise (3 percent retroactive to last school year and 3 percent for this school year); nurses at every school by fall 2020; 30 community schools with local control by spring 2020; 17 new counselors; and full-time librarians at each middle and high school by fall 2020.

The district agreed to a board vote on whether to ask the state to cap the number of charter schools, which are privately controlled, publicly funded institutions that often hire nonunion teachers. The district also committed to reducing aggregate class size by four students by fall 2021.

"Suffice to say in the first year, every school will see a reduction" in class size, Garcetti said. "Every year for the next four years, they will see reductions."

The contract would run through 2022. The school district has about 600,000 students in K-12. Campuses have stayed open during the strike with a skeleton staff.

The district is the nation's second largest school system and runs independently with its own superintendent and elected trustees.

Garcetti acted as a mediator and said the labor action, while painful, forced the issue that led to an agreement.

A key sticking point going into the strike was union accusations that the district was sitting on huge reserves that it was unwilling to spend.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district will remain on firm financial footing with this deal. Union chief Caputo-Pearl said members are still suspicious, but are willing to shake hands with management.

"I think we, frankly, still have a few differences on key parts of the district's budget" but not enough to scuttle the deal, Caputo-Pearl said.

## **CBS News**

### **Los Angeles teachers overwhelmingly OK "historic" pact ending 6-day strike**

Los Angeles -- Teachers overwhelmingly approved a new contract Tuesday and planned to return to the classroom after a six-day strike over funding and staffing in the nation's second-largest school district.

Although all votes hadn't been counted, preliminary figures showed that a "vast supermajority" of some 30,000 educators voted in favor of the tentative deal, "therefore ending the strike and heading back to schools tomorrow," said Alex Caputo-Pearl, president of United Teachers Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, accompanied by leaders of the union and the Los Angeles Unified School District, announced the agreement at City Hall a few hours after a 21-hour bargaining session ended before dawn.

"This is a good agreement. It is a historic agreement," Garcetti said.

The deal was broadly described by officials at the news conference as including a 6 percent pay hike and a commitment to reduce class sizes over four years.

Specifics provided later by the district and the union included the addition of more than 600 nursing positions over the next three school years. Additional counselors and librarians were also part of the increase in support staff.

Marianne O'Brien said the need for additional support staff was one of the main reasons she walked picket lines.

"This is not just for teachers. It's also for counselors, nurses, psychologists and social workers," said O'Brien, who teaches 10th grade English.

The new contract also eliminates a longstanding clause that gave the district authority over class sizes, officials said.

Grades 4 through 12 would be reduced by one student during each of the next two school years and two pupils in 2021-22.

Clashes over pay, class sizes and support-staff levels in the district with 640,000 students led to its first strike in 30 years and prompted the staffing of classrooms with substitute teachers and administrators.

The district maintained that the union's demands could bankrupt the school system, which is projecting a half-billion-dollar deficit this budget year and has billions obligated for pension payments and health coverage for retired teachers.

District Superintendent Austin Beutner said he was delighted the deal was reached. But he stressed that financial challenges remained.

"The issue has always been: How do we pay for it?" Beutner said. "That issue does not go away now that we have a contract. We can't solve 40 years of underinvestment in public education in just one week or just one contract."

Under the tentative agreement, the district, the union and the mayor's office will work jointly to "advocate for increased county and state funding" for Los Angeles schools, according to the UTLA summary.

The Board of Education was expected to move quickly to ratify the deal, which would expire at the end of June 2022.

CBS Los Angeles points out that the accord calls on the district to support a statewide cap on charter schools and provide regular reports on proposed co-locations of charter and public school campuses. The pact also calls on Garcetti to support a ballot initiative going to voters in November 2020 that would roll back Proposition 13 property tax limits on commercial buildings to increase state tax revenue for public education.

"We have seen over the last few weeks the way that the city has rallied around public education, and quite frankly it's been breathtaking; it's been inspiring to see," Garcetti said at the news conference, CBS L.A. notes.

The deal came as teachers in Denver voted to go on strike as soon as next Monday. More than 5,000 educators would be affected. The main sticking point is increasing base pay and lessening teachers' reliance on one-time bonuses for having students with high test scores or working in a high-poverty school.

In Oakland, California, some teachers called in sick last week as part of an unofficial rally over their contract negotiations, which also hinge partly on a demand for smaller class sizes.

Thousands of boisterous educators, many wearing red, and their supporters gathered on the steps outside City Hall where the tentative agreement was announced.

The crowd began cheering, blowing horns and chanting the initials of Caputo-Pearl as the smiling union leader emerged from the building and walked through the throng.

Joaquin Flores, a special education teacher, said he believed he would support the deal unless it weakened health care or didn't go far enough to reduce class size.

"It's almost like metaphoric," Flores said. "The sun's out. When we started, it was all rainy and cold. I feel like it's a new day."

Teachers hoped to build on the "Red4Ed" movement that began last year in West Virginia and moved to Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arizona, Colorado and Washington state. It spread from conservative states with "right to work" laws that limit the ability to strike to the more liberal West Coast with strong unions.

CBS L.A. says the LAUSD covers 710 square miles and has 1,322 schools, although 216 are independent charter schools, most of which were being staffed with non-union teachers and were unaffected by the strike.

## **Fox News**

### **Los Angeles teachers reach tentative deal to end strike, could return to classrooms Wednesday**

LOS ANGELES – A tentative deal was reached Tuesday between Los Angeles school officials and the teachers union that will allow educators to return to classrooms after a six-day strike against the nation's second-largest district, officials said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, accompanied by leaders United Teachers Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Unified School District, announced the agreement at City Hall a few hours after a 21-hour bargaining session ended before dawn.

"I'm proud to announce that pending approval by the teachers represented by UTA and educational professional and this

Board of Education we have an agreement that will allow our teachers to go back to work on the campuses tomorrow," Garcetti said.

Union President Alex Caputo-Pearl said teachers would vote Tuesday and he expected approval.

The agreement was broadly described by officials at the press conference and details were promised to be released later.

"I'm delighted we've reached an agreement with UTLA that provides teachers with a well-deserved salary increase, that will reduce class size, and add more support to our students and educators in schools including librarians, nurses and counselors," said district Superintendent Austin Beutner.

Talks resumed Thursday at Garcetti's urging. The mayor does not have authority over the Los Angeles Unified School District but he sought to help both sides reach an agreement after nearly two years of fruitless talks that led to the walkout.

Clashes over pay, class sizes and support-staff levels in the district with 640,000 students led to its first strike in 30 years and prompted the staffing of classrooms with substitute teachers and administrators. It followed teacher walkouts in other states that emboldened organized labor.

The district maintained that the union's demands could bankrupt the school system, which is projecting a half-billion-dollar deficit this budget year and has billions obligated for pension payments and health coverage for retired teachers.

Negotiations broke down in December and started again this month. The union rejected a district offer on Jan. 11 to hire nearly 1,200 teachers, counselors, nurses and librarians and reduce class sizes by two students.

Teachers hoped to build on the "Red4Ed" movement that began last year in West Virginia and moved to Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arizona, Colorado and Washington state. It spread from conservative states with "right to work" laws that limit the ability to strike to the more liberal West Coast with strong unions.

#### **LA Daily News**

#### **LAUSD, UTLA hammer out agreement to end teachers strike and usher in 'a new chapter in education'**

About half a million students and 30,000 teachers will reunite Wednesday.

After nearly two years of talks, a strike that sent tens of thousands to the streets and intense last-minute marathon bargaining brokered by LA's mayor, the Los Angeles Unified School District and the union representing its teachers tentatively agreed on a deal to end the district's first teacher walkout in 30 years.

And after the "vast majority" of teachers in the union — United Teachers Los Angeles — preliminarily approved the deal late Tuesday, class was back in session with teachers who for days this week and last were on the picket lines.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti** announced the agreement at a joint news conference on Tuesday, flanked by LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner and Alex Caputo-Pearl, president of United Teachers Los Angeles, which represents the teachers.

"Today is a day full of good news," Garcetti said, speaking inside a packed press room at City Hall.

"It's time for a new day in public education in Los Angeles. That new day begins now."

UTLA teachers went on strike Jan. 14, calling for smaller class sizes and the hiring of more support staff, such as nurses, counselors and librarians, and a pay raise. Supt. Austin Beutner said during the standoff with the union that its demands would cost billions of dollars and bankrupt a district already teetering on insolvency.

But on Tuesday, Beutner touted what by 5:30 p.m. was still a tentative agreement as "a new chapter in public education."

"The strike nobody wanted is now behind us," he said.

But he also cautioned that "We can't solve 40 years of underinvestment in public education in just one week or just one contract."

"Now that all students and our educators are heading back to the classroom, we have to keep our focus and pay attention to the long-term solutions. ... The importance of this moment is public education is now the topic in every household in our community. Let's capitalize on this. Let's fix it."

The Board of Education was set to vote on the three-year deal next week.

Caputo Pearl said the tentative agreement addressed the union's core issues.

"We have seen over the last week something pretty amazing happen," Caputo-Pearl said. "We went on strike in one of the largest strikes the United States has seen in decades. And the creativity and innovation and passion and love and emotion of our members was out on the street, in the communities, in the parks for everyone to see."

The deal includes a 6 percent pay raise for teachers, with 3 percent retroactive to the 2017-18 school year and another 3 percent retroactive to July 1, 2018. It also includes provisions for providing a full-time nurse at all schools, along with a teacher-librarian. The proposal also calls for the hiring of 17 counselors by October.

The proposal also outlines a phased-in reduction of class sizes over the next three school years, with additional reductions for "high needs" campuses.

Caputo-Pearl said the issue of class size is a key element of the pact. He said the district agreed to eliminate contract language he dubbed an "escape clause" that would allow the district to increase class sizes in the future.

A main thrust of the union's strike was a call for increases in the number of nurses, counselors and librarians at campuses. According to the district, the proposed agreement's provisions for reducing class sizes and hiring nurses, librarians and counselors will cost an estimated \$175 million from 2019-21, and \$228 million for 2021-22.

There were no immediate plans for back pay or make-up days, based on the days of striking, Caputo-Pearl said.

It was unclear exactly how the costs of the new agreement will be covered. Garcetti said the deal's various provisions will include a combination of funding or other support from the state, county and city.

The county Office of Education, which oversees the district and has raised questions in recent weeks about the LAUSD's financial stability, will have to review the proposed deal.

"Our obligation is to ensure that the district has a funding plan in place to cover the costs associated with this agreement, and thereby able to remain fiscally solvent," county Superintendent Debra Duardo said in a statement. "Now that a tentative agreement is in place, the Los Angeles County Office of Education has the legal obligation to review and provide comments before the LAUSD governing board takes action."

"While the statute provides a window of 10 working days, we intend to provide these comments as soon as possible once we receive the relevant data," Duardo said.

The proposal also calls on the district to support a statewide cap on charter schools and to provide regular reports on proposed co-locations of charter and public school campuses. The deal also calls on the mayor to support a ballot initiative going to voters in November 2020 that would roll back Proposition 13 property tax limits on commercial buildings to increase state tax revenue for public education.

Teachers returned to picket lines early Tuesday, beginning with a protest march at dawn. But protests turned to partying from around L.A. to City Hall — where a rally had already been planned deal or no deal — once the agreement was announced.

Waves of relief and elation passed over the throng of teachers picketing in front of Taft Charter High School in the San Fernando valley as Garcetti said the words "We have an agreement."

An impromptu dance line broke out, with "Celebrate" by Kool and the Gang as its soundtrack.

Amy Edmonds, teacher at Frost Middle School, was spending her third time at Grand Park, but this time she was relieved. "I'm relieved to be back in class, to be back with my students, and to have some normalcy."

On Monday night, she had no idea what to expect. "I'd wake up at 2 a.m. to look at my phone and see if there was anything on it. It's a relief for sure."

With everything else, the district has taken a hit in the strike.

Student attendance climbed on Tuesday, the sixth and final day of the teacher's strike, nearly up to 111,000 students — more than 20,000 additional students from Friday, but still a far cry from the district's half-million students that it typically serves.

This resulted in an additional \$26 million in lost revenue for the district, but that's offset by \$10 million in wages saved from 30,000 teachers who were still striking on Tuesday.

In total, the district said that it lost \$151 million in revenue over the course of the strike, but that doesn't include the amount the district saved from striking teachers who weren't getting paid. After adjusting for that, the district still lost \$91 million in a week of striking.

This isn't an inclusive total, however. The district has not released any figures about additional expenses like substitute teachers. A representative for the district said that those numbers will be released in the coming weeks. The cost of extra policing, which was needed on every single LAUSD campus on every morning of the strike, also hasn't been tabulated yet.

Scott Schmerelson, a member of the Board of Education, who represents parts of the San Fernando Valley, said that additional policing would come with "tremendous" costs.

"There's a thousand schools, you know," he said.

The tense back-and-forth between the district and its union lasted months, even years, in the effort to hash out a new contract.

As late as last Friday, the district presented the union with an offer that included the hiring of 1,200 teachers, capping middle and high school English/math classes at 39 students, capping grades four through six at 35 students, maintaining all other existing class sizes, adding a full-time nurse at every elementary school and adding another academic counselor at high schools.

UTLA officials rejected the proposal, saying it did not go far enough to bolster school staffing, reduce class sizes and prevent them from increasing in the future. The union also blasted the district's staff-increase proposal for being only a one-year offer, and contended the district's salary increase proposal is contingent on benefit cuts to future union members.

The LAUSD — the second largest school district in the nation — had offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract. The union disputed the district's claim it cannot afford more extensive investment in school staffing, pointing to what it calls an estimated \$1.8 billion reserve fund and insisting the district has not faced a financial deficit in five years. The district contends that reserve fund is already being spent, in part on the salary increase for teachers.

But on Jan. 14, the day the strike began, Garcetti — who has no formal authority over the district but parachuted in to help mediate — said the two sides were not that far apart.

He implored them to tone down the rhetoric and get behind closed doors to hash out a deal to a strike that was keeping thousands of students out of school and still others in school, but left to be supervised by a strapped staff of substitutes and administrators.

After a fractious lead-up to the strike, the two sides returned to the negotiating table late Thursday morning. With the mayor's office acting as mediator, the opposing teams clashed for more than 12 hours before recessing shortly after midnight. Friday, Saturday and Sunday's bargaining sessions also began about 11 a.m. and continued throughout the afternoon and evening; Friday's talks adjourned after more than 10 hours and Saturday's after about 11 hours, 30 minutes. Monday, too, was a long session, at one point Garcetti saying they were productive.

With the two sides reportedly having agreed to confidentiality, officials were tight-lipped.

The toughest challenge, said Arlene Inouye, the union's chief negotiator, was still the fundamental issue at the heart of the strike: How can a district that's teetering on the brink of insolvency afford all of the union's demands?

"By working together [with the district], we're looking at money from the state, we're looking at money from the county. Our pool of money got bigger," she said, adding that conversations with Governor Gavin Newsom and State Superintendent Tony Thurmond were already underway.

## **Hoy Los Angeles**

### **Teachers and the Los Angeles school district agree to end the strike**

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the teachers' union today announced a principle of agreement that, if ratified by 34,000 teachers, would put an end to an indefinite strike on Wednesday that has affected about half a million people since last week. students.

"All 34,000 teachers will decide over the course of the day and we will confirm (later) if we return to school tomorrow," Los Angeles Teachers Union (UTLA) president Alex Caputo Pearl told a news conference.

Among the points of the agreement are an increase in salaries, the reduction of class sizes and the more effective regulation of charter schools (public, but administered by private), all key points for the union, said Caputo Pearl, who He did not detail the details of the pact.

This agreement in the second largest school district in the country, just behind the New Yorker, was achieved in part to the medication of the mayor of Los Angeles, **Eric Garcetti**, who today thanked all participants in the negotiations, which were closed after a marathon of 21 hours of conversations.

"Thank you all for being here this morning, nothing is more important than the education and safety of our children and we all have something important to say," Garcetti said today.

The superintendent of (LAUSD), Austin Beutner, stressed the importance of working together to improve the education system and said they will seek more support from the state and gave the example of New York State, which, he said, offers greater financial support to your school district.

Caputo Pearl said that teachers will vote today for the rest of the day on this tentative agreement and, if approved, as expected, teachers will return to classes on Wednesday after they went on strike on the 14th.

The union demanded a salary increase of 6.5% for teachers, while LAUSD offered an increase of 3% this year, followed by another 3% in 2020, among other points.

If the agreement is approved, it will be valid until mid-year, after which it will seek to approve another arrangement for three years.

*Also covered by: [El Pais](#)*

**NPR**

**Los Angeles Teachers Union To Vote On Tentative Agreement To End Strike**

AUDIE CORNISH, HOST:

Today - a tentative deal in Los Angeles where teachers began a strike more than a week ago. Mayor Eric Garcetti called today's deal a historic agreement.

(SOUNDBITE OF ARCHIVED RECORDING)

**ERIC GARCETTI:** For a city that embraced the idea that public education matters, that children matter, that teachers matter, today is a day full of good news.

CORNISH: It was cause for celebration for many teachers. Here is math teacher Donnie Walker.

DONNIE WALKER: I'm feeling awesome. I feel like our students really won, you know? It's been a while since I've seen them, but they know what we're fighting for. They have, you know, shown us a lot of confidence and support.

CORNISH: And Walker could see his students back in school as soon as tomorrow. For more, let's turn to KPCC's Kyle Stokes. And Kyle, are a lot of the people you've been talking to saying the same thing as Donnie Walker?

KYLE STOKES, BYLINE: That this is a good deal, that they're pretty excited to be heading back into classrooms. There's definitely a lot of excitement to have this deal in hand. Obviously the voting is, you know, supposed to commence now. The teachers are supposed to put their stamp on this tentative agreement. We were expecting the school board to also vote today. We've just learned that that vote is going to be delayed until a little bit later so that this can be properly noticed in the public.

But this was, as you sort of heard - this is being celebrated by both parties as an agreement that not only protects one big district priority, which is the finances of LAUSD, but also by the unions who've been aiming for real improvements in classroom conditions and in teaching conditions for the union members they represent.

CORNISH: What's in it?

STOKES: Well, so there's a lot of things. The big issue is class sizes. The two sides have agreed to a deal to reduce class sizes by an aggregate total of four students over the next three years. So it's a three-year deal. And even with that, the class sizes that the school district is going to have are well above national averages. But it takes a big chunk out of the class size differential that we've seen.



It's also a remarkable deal in that the district has relinquished the power that it had previously to raise class sizes to solve budget problems, essentially. They had wide authority in the past to do that - also quickly noting a 6 percent salary increase for teachers as well as an increase in staffing levels for nurses and counselors and social workers as well as some charter school regulations as part of this deal as well. That had been a big focus and a big anxiety among teachers here.

CORNISH: A sticking point had been finding the cash for all of these ideas. What changed over the last few days?

STOKES: Well, so what has changed over the last few days isn't necessarily clear. There's still a lot of money that we're talking about involved in this deal. It's not clear where all of it is going to come from. We do know a few things changed. One is that the county, Los Angeles County, came forward with some funding for more nurses. That's going to help in this deal. The city - you mentioned LA Mayor Eric Garcetti has been involved in this deal. The city is going to bring forward some assistance as part of this.

And the two sides have agreed to - well, all three sides - the union, the mayor and the district - have agreed to advocate for more funding. But a lot of this goes back to the state. There is more money in Governor Gavin Newsom's new state budget for K-12 education. But it's going to take probably even more money, you know, one would guess, given the sort of cost of what we're talking about. Class size reduction is not a cheap item by any means. So it's going to take more money to make this agreement sustainable.

CORNISH: Just a few seconds left. What's the order of business over the next few days?

STOKES: Well, so first is a vote of the teachers and then a forthcoming vote of the school board. The vote of the teachers, the rank and file members of United Teachers Los Angeles, is supposed to happen over the next day or so. And we should have results of that coming pretty shortly. The union says they can turn this vote around pretty quickly.

CORNISH: That's Kyle Stokes of KPCC. Thank you for your reporting.

STOKES: You're welcome.

#### **KPCC**

#### **A Tentative Deal In The LA Teachers Strike — Now, Union Members To Vote**

By: Elissa Nadworny and Clare Lombardo

On the sixth day of the Los Angeles teachers strike, the school district and union leaders announced that they've reached a tentative agreement.

"This is much more than just a narrow labor agreement. It's a very broad compact around things that get at social justice, educational justice and racial justice," United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl said at a news conference Tuesday.

"The strike no one wanted is now behind us," said Austin Beutner, the city's school superintendent.

Teachers meanwhile remain on strike. The tentative deal won't become official until union members vote on the agreement, which Caputo-Pearl said will happen Tuesday afternoon and evening. During that time, the school board will also decide whether or not to ratify the deal, Beutner said. If both groups approve it, teachers will head back to class on Wednesday, Caputo-Pearl said.

Teachers went on strike on Monday, Jan. 14, after about two years of contract negotiations and over a year of working without a contract. As teachers took to the streets, talks went on hold. The school district and the union resumed negotiations on Thursday, ahead of the holiday weekend. The city's mayor, **Eric Garcetti**, facilitated negotiations, including a 21-hour session that ended in the early morning hours on Tuesday.

"For a city that embraced the idea that public education matters — that children matter, that teachers matter — today is a day full of good news," Garcetti said.

UTLA — which represents more than 30,000 teachers and school support staff — is striking for smaller classes, and more nurses, counselors and librarians in schools. District leaders previously said they just didn't have the money to pay for that.

The week before the strike, Beutner visited the state Capitol in Sacramento to ask for more funding for the district, and in many press events since, he's emphasized that 90 percent of the district's funding comes from the state of California.

At a Tuesday press conference, Caputo-Pearl and Beutner said that the tentative deal would increase teachers' salary, reduce class sizes, and put more support staff in schools — though they did not share details.

Caputo-Pearl also mentioned that the agreement touched on special education, standardized testing and keeping charter schools accountable.

Kyle Stokes of KPCC reports that according to Caputo-Pearl, class sizes will be reduced over the next few years. The union president also told Stokes that the tentative agreement would provide permanent funding for a full-time nurse on every school campus, though not all of the funding would roll out right away.

Los Angeles, is home to the country's second-largest school district and serves almost a half-million students. Most schools have remained open throughout the strike, staffed by administrators, volunteers and substitutes teachers.

However, attendance has been low during the strike, with less than a third of the students coming to school on some days, according to the district.

That's a problem because district funding from the state is linked to attendance. Each day of the strike means an estimated net loss of about \$10 to \$15 million dollars.

**LAist**

## **LAUSD Teachers Strike Is Over. Here's What's In The Deal**

By: Kyle Stokes

After nearly two years of failed negotiations and a six-day strike, the Los Angeles teachers union's contract dispute with the nation's second-largest school district is finally over.

Negotiators for both United Teachers Los Angeles and the L.A. Unified School District reached a tentative agreement on a new contract early Tuesday morning, following a 21-hour negotiation that lasted until nearly sunrise.

By evening, union leaders announced that enough members had voted to accept the tentative agreement. They said teachers union members will return to their classrooms Wednesday — and school days will return to normal for LAUSD's more than 484,000 students.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, UTLA president Alex Caputo-Pearl and LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner announced the deal at a joint press conference at L.A. City Hall.

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### THE DEAL IN BRIEF

- Three-year contract through 2021-22 school year
- LAUSD relinquishes power to unilaterally raise class sizes to save money
- Class sizes will gradually decrease over three years by at least one student per year
- 2021-22 provisions will require new funding, LAUSD officials say — either through a parcel tax or increased state or federal funding
- 300 more nurses through 2021, 77 more middle- and high school counselors
- A 6 percent raise for teachers — 3 percent retroactive, 3 percent ongoing

Complete details below

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"Today marks a new chapter," said Beutner, who added that the deal addresses class sizes and salary issues in a way that allows the district to remain solvent. "The strike nobody wanted is now behind us," he said.

Caputo-Pearl said he's confident that the deal hits all the crucial notes, particularly issues of salary and class size. "It's a very broad compact" around a number of other issues, such as racial and social justice, he added.

He noted that the strike was one of the largest the country has ever seen.

Garcetti said he was "happy to play a small role" in this "historic agreement."

### WHAT COMES NEXT

Even after the members weigh in, the deal will need to clear several hurdles. L.A. Unified School Board members will need to approve the proposed contract.

Then, the district's regulators at the L.A. County Office of Education will have a chance to weigh in. State law gives them ten days to review the terms and decide whether the deal "endangers the fiscal well-being" of LAUSD.

Days before the teachers went on strike, the county appointed a "fiscal expert" to oversee LAUSD — a serious show of concern about the state of the district's finances.

County regulators have expressed concerns that the raises LAUSD had offered UTLA could be unsustainable. (UTLA believes these concerns are unfounded.)

## WHAT WE LEARNED

The city's first teachers strike in 30 years proved to be a pivotal moment in history, not only for the nation's second-largest school district but for many of the city's leaders.

The strike tested LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner, who had warned that LAUSD would need to spend most of a \$2 billion reserve in order to keep its books balanced and could only afford to spend so much on UTLA's demands. Declining enrollment and rising benefits costs, he cautioned, would soon begin to squeeze out services for students. Union leadership cast doubt on those warnings, noting that previous forecasts of LAUSD's financial collapse have yet to come true.

Before the strike began, Beutner had also been developing even broader plans. He had been reportedly exploring a shake-up of the school system's central bureaucracy, according to the L.A. Times. But the union alleged Beutner's "re-imagining plan" would open the door to more charter school growth — and the strike created a huge audience for these union critiques.

The strike altered L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti's relationship with LAUSD. Up until the strike, Garcetti had been hands-off in his dealings with the school system. Now, his office's negotiation of a strike-ending settlement will become a resumé point for Garcetti, who's widely rumored to be considering a run for president.

Finally, the strike considerably raised the profile of UTLA president Alex Caputo-Pearl. Before the strike, the union had been losing ground politically, with its candidates suffering morale-draining defeats in the 2017 school board elections. Through it all, Caputo-Pearl kept up the steady drumbeat toward a possible strike. Under his direction, the teachers union decisively won the battle for public opinion.

Beyond local news, UTLA stirred national conversation about the role of teachers and of teachers unions at a time of uncertainty for organized labor. Last summer, the U.S. Supreme Court's Janus decision dealt a blow to public sector unions, making union membership essentially voluntary for government employees.

In that context, UTLA's strike was a visible show of unions' enduring power in L.A. and in California.

## WHAT IS IN THE DEAL?

Here's a twist: after working for more than one year without a contract, some parts of the deal would cover the next three-and-a-half years — through the 2021-2022 school year.

The extended contract term gives LAUSD time to phase in some of the most expensive provisions, but also allows for more ambitious plans to meet two key union demands: reduce class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors.

The lengthier contract also lets the district spread out the cost over time. LAUSD predicts the first two years' worth of class size reductions and staffing increases would cost \$175 million. In the third and final year of the contract — 2021-2022 — district officials estimate spending another \$228 million on these demands.

But three LAUSD officials said Tuesday the class size reductions beyond 2021-2022 were offered based on a "handshake agreement" with UTLA that the school district will figure out some sort of new funding stream.

One option would be to pass a "parcel tax" — a kind of property tax that would require permission from two-thirds of the school district's voters. If they fail to get the votes, the district may attempt to revisit these class-size reductions before the contract expires.

Mayor Garcetti has also agreed to endorse a Nov. 2020 ballot measure that would increase the amount of property tax revenue available statewide; known as the "Schools and Communities First Act," it would exempt commercial properties from the Proposition 13 "property tax loophole."

## CLASS-SIZE "SAFETY VALVE": GONE

Experts say class-size reduction is "one of the most expensive things you can do in education" because lowering class

sizes requires hiring more teachers.

But the price tag wasn't the only factor that made class-size reduction the single biggest sticking point in the late stages of talks. The union desperately wanted to remove a "safety valve" provision of the contract that gave the district broad discretion to raise class sizes.

On Tuesday, LAUSD officials made a key concession: they agreed to give up the safety valve provision, called Section 1.5.

Throughout contract talks, district officials had hoped to replace Section 1.5 with a new class-size safety valve of some sort — a new contract provision that would give the district similar authority to raise class sizes to save money.

There is no such replacement language in Tuesday's tentative agreement. But both LAUSD officials and union leaders acknowledged that if a budget crisis arises in the future, both sides may need to revisit the class size agreement in order to prevent cuts elsewhere.

## CLASS SIZES REDUCED

Under Tuesday's agreement, LAUSD's class sizes would reach the highly ambitious targets UTLA leaders had hoped for — but not until 2022. The class-size reductions would be across-the-board, but gradual.

Next school year, in Grades 4 through 12, class-size limits would decrease from current levels by one student. For example, most fourth grade classes, currently limited to 34 students, would instead be capped at 33. The district would also honor its offer to cap all middle- and high school English and math classes at 39 students next school year.

In the 75 highest-need elementary schools and 15 highest-need middle schools, the reductions will be even greater. Starting this year, they'll be able to reduce class sizes by an extra two students — on top of the reductions all other schools are receiving.

In 2020-2021 — the second year of the deal — class size limits would step down again, by one more student. (Fourth grade classes would then top out at 32 students.)

And in the deal's final year, 2021-2022, the limits would decrease again by two more students. That would mean that, over the life of the deal, class-size caps would have decreased by four students in most grade levels.

## STAFFING LEVELS

LAUSD agreed to hire 300 more school nurses over the next two school years — 150 in 2019-2020 and 150 in 2020-2021. UTLA officials say that's enough to fully meet their demand for a "full-time nurse at every school five days a week."

Another 78 librarians would be added to the district's ranks over the next two school years — enough, union officials claim, to fully meet their demand for a full-time nurse in every middle- and high school.

The district also agreed to hire 17 counselors next school year and another 60 counselors in 2021-2022 — enough to guarantee a student-to-counselor ratio of 500-to-1 in LAUSD middle- and high schools.

## SALARY

UTLA accepted the 6 percent raise the district was offering — a 3 percent raise retroactive to July 2017, and another 3 percent retroactive to July 2018.

A deal at this salary level doesn't create new, unanticipated costs for LAUSD; district officials had already set aside \$303 million to cover the cost of a raise of this size.

The salary agreement only runs through the end of this school year. The two sides agreed to revisit the question of teacher salaries in January 2020.

## ALSO OF NOTE

- Charter school regulations. Charter schools are publicly funded, but run by outside non-profit organizations that compete with LAUSD for enrollment — and therefore, state school funding. The tentative agreement calls on L.A. Unified School Board members to vote on a resolution endorsing state legislation blocking new charter schools from opening in the district until a "comprehensive study" can be undertaken. (Both Gov. Gavin Newsom and state schools superintendent Tony Thurmond have called for some form of temporary charter moratorium.) The tentative agreement also gives teachers union members on LAUSD campuses that share space with charter schools —

yes, really they do that; it can be an awkward arrangement — a say on the charter's facilities agreement with the district.

- Sacramento might help. LAUSD can free up more money in its books to pay for the deal if state lawmakers can help out on a highly technical matter: the district normally would have to pay a penalty for failing to maintain a certain ratio of administrators-to-teachers. But LAUSD, UTLA and the Mayor Garcetti's office joined forces to lobby state lawmakers for a waiver from that penalty. According to an LAUSD official, they spoke to Gov. Newsom, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and State Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins. If lawmakers come through, that waiver frees up \$105 million over three years that would've otherwise gone to that penalty.
- UTLA refuses healthcare concession. LAUSD had hoped to ask new hires into the district to have to put in one additional year of service to the district, and also be one year older, before they can become eligible for the district's generous retiree benefits package. But unlike most of the district's other employee unions that settled contracts this year, UTLA refused to accept the new "Rule of 87." For the time being, the teachers will be the only LAUSD employees who adhere to the "Rule of 85." The district will likely revisit this provision in the near future.
- Early childhood teachers get a lunch break. They didn't before!
- 'Community schools.' UTLA has long endorsed an educational model called "community schools," which make schools into hubs for not only educational programming, but wraparound services like health care and after school activities. Community schools also, by UTLA's definition, offer "culturally relevant" teaching and give educators a greater voice. LAUSD has agreed to fund a pilot program for community schools at 30 campuses district-wide by 2022. As part of that pilot program, UTLA members on those campuses will have a greater say over spending decisions on those campuses.
- Random searches. UTLA has supported student activists who oppose LAUSD's longstanding policy of searching middle- and high school students at random for weapons or drugs. As part of their tentative agreement, the district would expand its pilot program — in which LAUSD administrators adhere to a more relaxed search policy — to another 28 schools.

To read L.A. Unified's summary of the deal, click [here](#).

To read United Teachers Los Angeles' summary of the deal, click [here](#).

And here is the full tentative agreement in all its legalese glory.

*More strike coverage at: [USA Today](#), [KNX 1070](#), [PBS NewsHour](#), [CNBC](#), [Truthdig](#), [LA Weekly](#), [Hollywood Reporter](#), [Deadline](#), [Yahoo News](#)*

## **LA Times**

### **Mayor Eric Garcetti kicks off annual L.A. homeless count: 'Counting is the beginning of caring'**

By: Benjamin Oreskes

On a night when temperatures dipped into the 40s in Los Angeles, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** joined thousands of volunteers documenting the area's homeless population.

At a news conference Tuesday evening to open the yearly count, which helps the city and county gauge the area's unsheltered population, Garcetti noted that people should be frustrated by homelessness because "if not, you don't have a heart."

The mayor was joined by other government officials at a permanent supportive housing facility in North Hollywood run by L.A. Family Housing. More than 7,000 volunteers are expected to participate in the annual documentation, which continues through Thursday.

Before he spoke, Councilwoman Nury Martinez gave the mayor a big hug and said, "Good job" — an apparent reference to the new union contract agreement with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Garcetti applauded the "courage" of the school district and teachers for coming together and hashing out an agreement as volunteers and elected officials, including Martinez and Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, stood behind him.

"Homelessness is like public education — something that for far too long we haven't put the resources or love or attention to," Garcetti said. "But that's also changing in this city."

He expressed some frustration that the night would not include outreach, only data collection. Last year's count documented 53,195 homeless people in Los Angeles County. The numbers help determine how money is disbursed throughout the region, including \$350 million in sales tax revenue generated annually from the Measure H homelessness tax, which was passed in 2017.

Homelessness declined 3% in the county and 5% in the city of Los Angeles in 2018 over the previous year, but the



number of tents, vehicles and makeshift shelters increased.

For Tuesday's launch of the count, volunteers began inspecting 2,160 census tracts in the San Fernando, Santa Clarita and San Gabriel valleys. They will continue in other parts of the county over the next two days.

Stephanie Klasky-Gamer, president and chief executive of L.A. Family Housing, said 410 families are supported by the organization, but many could lose their housing next month if the government shutdown doesn't end soon.

"More than 1,600 children, moms and dads could become homeless, and that number only represents who we are serving," she said. "Imagine the impact of the federal shutdown on all of Los Angeles."

Garcetti, who is considering a run for president, heads to Washington on Wednesday for a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. He said the homeless crisis is not only a localized problem.

"It's time for the federal government to step up too," he said, noting that there are more homeless people per capita in the nation's capital than in Los Angeles.

They're "right next to the White House, right next to city hall," Garcetti said. "This is something where every government leader needs to put down partisanship and produce results."

After addressing the crowd, the mayor and other dignitaries were taken to a nearby encampment on Webb Avenue in North Hollywood. Garcetti walked the block, trying to count tents and people where he saw them. He noted 17 homeless people in the half-block there.

He spoke with several men who were standing around a fire and fixing bikes. They told him it would be great if their trash was picked up regularly and a street light was installed nearby.

"Counting is the beginning of caring, and caring is the beginning of acting, and acting is the beginning of solving, and solving is the beginning of ending this crisis," Garcetti said.

## **ABC Los Angeles**

### **Thousands volunteer for 2019 homeless count in Los Angeles**

By: Veronica Miracle

**DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES (KABC)** -- Thousands of volunteers took to the streets of Los Angeles for the first night of the homeless count.

Last year, volunteers counted more than 53,000 homeless people. Priscilla Coughran and her family know what it's like to struggle and be out on the streets.

"Our rent increased and we could no longer afford staying in our home, so we lost our place and ended up in our car, bouncing around hotels when we had money to pay for them," she said.

She is now a volunteer for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority after the organization helped her family find permanent housing. Executive Director Peter Lynn said her success story is just one example in their fight to end homelessness.

"Last year, we saw an increase in seniors experiencing homelessness. We also saw a decrease in the overall population, which is what we need to see. We're putting more resources into it - they are starting to make a difference," he said.

City leaders, including Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, attribute last year's 3 percent decline in homelessness to unprecedented levels of investment. Measure H and Prop HHH both fund new housing developments for thousands of families.

But some said the progress isn't fast enough. They point to massive wildfires caused by the homeless living in rural areas, or large encampments that overtake neighborhoods.

Garcetti said the first step is to collect data so they can keep helping the most vulnerable population in the city.

"Our responsibility is to end that on our watch, to do our piece and to make sure that we count and care," he said.

Results from the count will be released in late May.

Also covered by: [Fox Los Angeles](#), [KTLA](#), [Los Feliz Ledger](#), [KNX 1070](#), [Telemundo](#)

**Commercial Observer**

## **Jose Huizar Scandal Touching Major LA Real Estate Players [Updated]**

By: Alison Stateman

The shadow hanging over L.A. City Councilman Jose Huizar since last November, when the the FBI raided his home and office at City Hall, has widened, according to a search warrant which became public last week and was covered by The Los Angeles Times—and it has become a scandal embroiling some of the most important figures in real estate.

Details of the warrant, filed with the United States District Court, named 13 people in the probe, which includes possible kickbacks, extortion, money laundering and bribery between the private sector and officials charged with green-lighting development projects throughout the city.

In addition to Huizar, who was stripped of his post of chair of the council's Planning and Land Use Management committee in November, the document named two former aides of Mayor **Eric Garcetti**—Ray Chan, who once headed the L.A. Department of Building and Safety and Joel Jacinto, an appointee who resigned from his post as a member of the Board of Public Works last Friday—as well as Ninth District Councilman Curren Price, a senior aide to Council President Herb Wesson.

The warrant also requested information from “relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors to include, but not limited to, Hazens [a subsidiary of Shenzhen New World Group], Greenland and Oceanwide.” The trio is behind some of the biggest commercial developments in Downtown Los Angeles, including a 77-story mixed-use skyscraper at the Marriott in Downtown Los Angeles at 333 South Figueroa Street by Shenzhen New World Group, the Luxe City Center project at 1020 South Figueroa Street in South Park, Metropolis, a trio of luxury residential towers at 889 Francisco Street being developed by Greenland and \$1 billion mixed-use development Oceanwide Plaza at 1101 South Flower Street at the Staples Center.

No one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation as it stands, with a spokesman for the FBI's Los Angeles bureau telling Commercial Observer the agency could not comment on a pending investigation.

Vicki Podberesky and Mary Carter Andruess, attorneys for Huizar, stated in an email to CO, that the councilman “maintains an unwavering commitment to serving the constituents of District 14, and continues to work on behalf of the cultural, residential and commercial revitalization of Downtown Los Angeles.”

A spokeswoman for Price said, “Councilmember Price has not spoken to any investigators and is not aware of any of the matters listed in the warrant. However, he will cooperate fully in any investigation.”

The other individuals noted in the warrant did not return calls for comment.

In December, The Los Angeles Times reported that a federal grand jury had issued at least one subpoena seeking records involving lobbyist Morrie Goldman and Art Gastelum, the head of a Pasadena-based construction management firm. Goldman has represented companies behind some of the biggest development projects in Huizar's council district, including the \$1 billion Grand Avenue Project across from the Walt Disney Concert Hall and 6 AM, the Arts District project which would bring two 58-story skyscrapers to 6th and Alameda Streets. A subpoena is commonly issued by investigators seeking information and does not mean the recipients or those mentioned in them are targets of a probe.

As far-reaching as the investigation seems, Jill Stewart, the executive director of the Coalition to Preserve L.A., said the issue goes further than any single council member, the mayor or the planning commissions, seeing an endemic problem with the way city officials work with commercial developers.

“What we've been saying since 2016 is that there is a pay-to-play system, a secret shadow government if you will that has its main debates behind closed doors directly with the developers, meetings that no members of the public can get. It's become corrupt. In Los Angeles; we're talking about billions of dollars sloshing around and people building skyscrapers and huge projects that ignore the local zoning, the community plan, the general plan,” she said. “There is no plan anymore in Los Angeles. Money is the plan.”

Her organization was behind the defeated Measure S on the 2017 ballot, which sought to put a two-year moratorium on building projects that require zone or other changes to city rules.

The problem, she said, surpasses just commercial properties Downtown, citing a tally of alleged “pay-for-play” development citywide. The coalition is filing a 30-page document with the Los Angeles County civil grand jury shortly to take a broader look at L.A. officials, not just those listed in the warrant, who she said “routinely take money and are lobbied from developers.”

Previous research into meetings between commercial developers and public officials from 2013 through 2016 and the projects that were approved gave her pause.

"The focus and discussion has been about downtown, but everywhere you look what would normally be considered illegal buildings are being built and pushed into Los Angeles," she said, citing 12 projects throughout the county from Hollywood to the West Valley that were initially debated behind closed doors during that time period.

"Every one of them involved private meetings with city council members. The mayor claims that L.A. is transparent. It's completely a lie," she said, before adding that she found Garcetti the least open with such negotiations among the city's recent top officials.

In a statement provided to CO in response, Garcetti said, "I've got zero tolerance for any unethical behavior in City Hall. Angelenos deserve public servants who bring integrity to everything they do in and outside of City Hall—and that will always be my demand of anyone who serves." He declined further comment on the FBI investigation and the resignation of Jacinto.

Whatever comes of the FBI case, Frank v. Zerunyan, professor of the practice of governance and director of executive education at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy, said even the suggestion of wrongdoing is harmful for public-private partnerships.

"It's never good when potential crimes are being investigated by the FBI, especially in the context of relationships between the government and the private sector," he told CO. "There's already a lack of trust between them, which becomes more accentuated. Even with [just] innuendo that there is a crime committed or any kind of conduct unbecoming or unethical, it's not helpful for the relationship between the public and private sector."

"When you have these kinds of questionable events that occur, it reduces the trust of one sector over the other and it really scares the good ones. They don't want to be involved. There are plenty of projects everywhere in the world. They do not need to be involved in a project that has any kind of shade involved."

Zerunyan, a former three-term mayor and still-serving council member in the City of Rolling Hills Estates, who also acted as chair of the Planning Commission, said there are clear guidelines for elected officials with respect to gifts and donations as outlined in the state's Sunshine Laws. He said they were required to list any gifts or donations with the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPCC).

"If they violated the laws of the FPCC, there is an entire division of the L.A. County District Attorney General's office that prosecutes these cases. God forbid these folks were involved in any pay-for-play schemes, it's very bad news for them. They lose their offices, they will be prosecuted and can even serve jail time. It's pretty harsh," he said.

When asked what the likely impact of the investigation could be on commercial development projects noted or in the pipeline, he said even if a private individual had given gifts or donated to causes tied to public officials, but failed to disclose those, they are not subject to the same state laws.

"You would need to find other crimes to go after them. In their case, it's a free country. They can donate to campaigns as long as it's within campaign limits and money to various organizations," he said. "I can also envision a not-so-honest part if those donations were done for quid pro quo, but you would have to prove that."

UPDATE: The copy has been updated to clarify that Morrie Goldman and Art Gastelum were not named in the FBI warrant in November, but were issued at least one subpoena from a federal grand jury examining the activities of the two men, who have close ties to City Hall as part of the probe into Huizar.

## **Washington Post**

### **Pete Buttigieg joins the Democratic race for the 2020 presidential nomination**

By: Cathleen Decker

South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who has signaled for months that he would try to leap from local to presidential politics, announced Wednesday that he will join the burgeoning cast of Democratic candidates in the 2020 race.

Buttigieg made his plans official in a video and email sent to supporters early Wednesday, before taking part in the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Washington.

He announced in December that he would not seek a third term as mayor of the Indiana city, a move widely seen as a precursor to a presidential run. He said Wednesday he was setting up an exploratory committee for president, the legal mechanism allowing him to raise and spend money on behalf of his campaign.

Buttigieg suffused his announcement with references to his youth and the generational exception he represents compared to most of the Democratic field. He turned 37 on Saturday, making him the youngest entrant so far in the presidential race.



"I belong to a generation that is stepping forward right now. We're the generation that lived through school shootings, that served in the wars after 9/11, and we're the generation that stands to be the first to make less than our parents unless we do something different," he said in his announcement video.

"We can't just polish off a system so broken. It is a season for boldness and a focus on the future."

The millennial profile is only one of the attributes Buttigieg brings to the race: He is a former Rhodes scholar and Afghanistan veteran who is gay. (He married his husband, Chasten Glezman, last summer.) He ran unsuccessfully in 2017 for chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

He acknowledged Wednesday that he is "aware of the odds" he faces in leaping from local office — particularly one representing a city of just over 100,000 people — to a presidential campaign. But he also faced a dismal potential for rising to statewide office in his Republican-dominated state.

Like others considering a presidential race — among them Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York, and Eric Garcetti, mayor of Los Angeles — Buttigieg is emphasizing his role in his city's transformation.

After taking office at the age of 29, he confronted an industrial Midwest town that, like many others, had been left foundering by economic changes in recent decades that ruined much of the city's financial base. He pushed to revitalize South Bend, draw in new residents and businesses, diversify the economy and clean up blighted, abandoned homes.

"When I arrived in office at the beginning of this decade, the national press said that our city was dying," he said in his video. "People on the outside didn't believe our city had a future."

"We propelled our city's comeback by taking our eyes off the rearview mirror, being honest about change and insisting on a better future," he said, suggesting that he would be able to force similar transformations at the national level.

Buttigieg's brief entry announcement was light on specifics. He cited consumer protections, racial and social justice, cyber- and other security threats, climate change and freedom from interference by hostile foreign powers as some of the problems for which he would seek solutions.

But he also was aiming at something more historic — becoming the first gay nominee of a major political party.

#### **LA Confidential**

#### **TOMS kicks off #ENDGUNVIOLENCETOGETHER tour**

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** joined gun safety advocates for a rally at TOMS HQ to announce "The End Gun Violence Together Tour." Speakers included David Hogg, Co-Founder of March for Our Lives, and Yolanda Renee King, activist and granddaughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. TOMS Founder Blake Mycoskie, National Youth Walkout Organizer Winter BreeAnne Minisee, and Chief Strategist at March for Our Lives Matt Dietsch will be on the road meeting with concerned Americans on their way to Washington, where they will deliver over 700,000 postcards to Members of Congress urging them to #EndGunViolenceTogether.



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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019**

2 messages

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Thu, Jan 24, 2019 at 7:27 AM

**Mayor Eric Garcetti**

[ASSOCIATED PRESS / NYT: With Strike Deal, Garcetti Looks Again Toward 2020 Run](#)

[LA TIMES: How L.A. teachers scored a decisive political victory with strike](#)

[LAIST: How Mayor Eric Garcetti And A 'Leap Of Faith' Helped End LA's Teachers Strike](#)

[NPR: After Tentative Deal, Teachers Return To Los Angeles Classrooms \(AUDIO + TRANSCRIPT\)](#)

[NPR: News Brief: LA Teachers, Government Shutdown And Its Impact On FBI \(AUDIO + TRANSCRIPT\)](#)

[KCRW: Press Play: LAUSD teachers strike ends \(AUDIO ONLY\)](#)

[LA DAILY NEWS: A 9-day LAUSD teacher strike took a financial toll. Here are some numbers](#)

[CBS LOS ANGELES: 6-Day Teachers Strike Cost LAUSD \\$151 Million](#)

[LA SCHOOL REPORT: The teacher strike is over. Now parents who felt ignored want to be included as LAUSD and UTLA move forward with their new agreement](#)

[USA TODAY: Los Angeles teacher: Our strike was worth it to help students and improve schools](#)

[LA DAILY NEWS: LAUSD teachers return to classrooms on first day back after massive strike](#)

[ABC LOS ANGELES: LAUSD strike: Teachers back in classrooms after voting to approve deal](#)

[LOS FELIZ LEDGER: As Classes Resume, It's a Mixed-Bag of Teacher Reactions to Strike Gains](#)

[WESTSIDE TODAY: Teachers Return to Westside Schools as Strike Ends](#)

[TMZ: L.A. MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI Screw the Doubters ... L.A. HAS BEST SPORTS TEAMS IN U.S.!!!](#)

[CITY NEWS SERVICE: Garcetti Heads to Washington D.C. for U.S. Conference of Mayors](#)

[LA OPINION: Recounting a human drama, helplessness](#)

[LA TACO: City Hall intrigue: Garcetti appointee resigns after being named in FBI corruption probe](#)

[LA TIMES: With Jan Perry's entrance, race to replace Supervisor Ridley-Thomas could be contentious](#)

[CNBC: Every Democrat wants Barack Obama's 2020 endorsement – but Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are likely the top contenders to get it](#)

[COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE: California Urged to Build More Housing to Fight Homelessness Crisis](#)

**Associated Press / NYT**

**With Strike Deal, Garcetti Looks Again Toward 2020 Run**

LOS ANGELES — After helping broker an end to a teachers strike that marooned more than half a million students, Mayor Eric Garcetti said Wednesday the deal shows that government is solving problems in Los Angeles while Washington remains hobbled by a lengthy shutdown.

The Democratic mayor, who is considering a 2020 White House run, called the pact a national model that shows how deeply divided factions can find common ground. The teachers union in the nation's second-largest school district ended a walkout Tuesday after winning higher wages and cuts in class sizes.

"All politics in this country seem to be about pulling each other apart. This is what we can get when we pull together," the mayor said in an interview. "I believe Americans do want great schools wherever they are, in the same way that Americans want a Washington that functions and isn't in the longest shutdown in our history."

The strike that began Jan. 14 threatened the mayor's argument that local government is where progress is made in America, while highlighting the risks of launching a presidential campaign from City Hall. No sitting mayor has ever been elected to the White House.

Garcetti suspended consideration of a 2020 candidacy with teachers on the picket lines, but indicated Wednesday a decision was not far off. "Stay tuned," he said.

Garcetti said the resolution of a strike that once seemed insoluble — along with improvements for teachers and students — "shows what kind of leadership we have here. ... Accomplishing things is always better than dividing one another."

Political scientist Jack Pitney said the end of the walkout will free up time Garcetti needs to make a 2020 decision, though it's unlikely to add much luster to his resume. Outside of Southern California "not many people are paying attention," said

Pitney, who teaches at Claremont McKenna College.

With the Democratic field growing larger each day, the mayor faces increasing pressure to make a decision because he could fall behind in crucial fundraising. Even on his home turf he would be competing for those dollars with another Californian, Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris, who entered the race on Monday.

If he gets into the race "he needs to establish his unique selling proposition, what sets him apart from the other candidates," Pitney said.

The mayor has no direct authority in the Los Angeles Unified School District, but Garcetti said he was compelled to get involved because success of the schools is directly linked to the success of the city.

His role that began quietly months ago evolved into mediator, note-taker, shuttle diplomat, arm-twister — even therapist, he quipped — between the union and the school administration. He described a bargaining environment that for months was devoid of trust, with each side unwilling to listen to the other.

Even when a deal was close early Tuesday morning, both sides nearly walked out over a long-running dispute over a provision that allows the district to unilaterally increase class size during times of financial strain.

The talks "actually went off the cliff," Garcetti recalled. "The union said 'We're done.'"

With negotiators from both sides packing up at City Hall, Garcetti said he began urging district Superintendent Austin Beutner and union President Alex Caputo-Pearl to give it another chance. The three talked and the disputed language was eventually withdrawn.

"We had a deal," the mayor said.

## **LA Times**

### **How L.A. teachers scored a decisive political victory with strike**

By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles is often criticized for its lack of public engagement and low voter turnout, and as a place where neighborhoods have a sense of community but the city overall feels fragmented.

But the nation saw a different side of L.A. when last week's teachers' strike galvanized the city. Thousands of red-clad teachers marched and rallied on the streets, drawing vocal support not just from residents and parents but from politicians and celebrities eager to back their cause.

By keeping a tight message and engaging parents, the United Teachers Los Angeles union and its president, Alex Caputo-Pearl, were able to highlight issues of inequality and L.A.'s struggling school system in a way that supporters hope has lasting significance.

Over the six-day walkout, teachers made the strike less about their salaries than about class sizes, services for children and the future of public education. Many parents in Los Angeles have fled traditional public schools in favor of charter schools, which are expanding rapidly across the city.

The strike may not have hurt the allure of charters to parents frustrated with the Los Angeles Unified School District. But it brought attention to the financial toll that defections are having on the school system and the difficult learning conditions, especially for students from lower-income families, in L.A. Unified.

The union's message was that "public education is rooted in democracy and in the tradition of the school district," said Charles Kerchner, a labor relations historian and professor emeritus at Claremont Graduate University. "They were actively selling this idea to parents, to the public.

"UTLA and Alex handled this brilliantly," he added. "It almost became a movement."

The long-term implications of the strike are unclear. The teachers union remains in an uncertain position, with half the current members of the L.A. Board of Education having been elected with backing from charter advocates. That could change in March with a special election for the board's seventh seat.

Moreover, it's hard to know whether other labor movements would have similar success without the issue of childhood education in the forefront.

Some see the teachers' strike as a larger increase in political engagement that began with the election of President Trump in 2016 and the many protests that came with the blue "resistance" in California. That continued in 2018, when

Democrats took several key House seats across the state in areas once considered safely Republican.

"You're having a consecutive number of events where people are in the streets or supporting people in the streets," said Jaime Regalado, professor emeritus of political science at Cal State L.A., adding that there's a "spirit of resistance, a spirit of support" in California in the Trump era.

Time will tell how long this shift will last. Los Angeles has become notorious for its low voter turnout in local elections, which hit an all-time low of about 18% in the 2009 mayor's race and was only 20% when **Eric Garcetti** was reelected.

Union leaders said preliminary counts show the agreement was approved by a large majority, but the contract between L.A. Unified and the teachers union wasn't universally embraced by educators, and UTLA's Facebook page was flooded with complaints Tuesday about the agreement. Some teachers complained it was vague on details and watered down. Also, gains were modest on reducing class sizes compared with what union leaders said publicly.

Still, the union achieved its goal, at least temporarily, of uniting parents, educators and their supporters. Downtown rallies backing educators over the last week followed several other recent marches in Los Angeles focused on gun violence and women's rights.

The strike gained momentum as images of marching teachers spread, but parents also played a key role as they picketed alongside their children's teachers or had their kids stay home.

Hollywood parent Lowell Goodman kept his kids out of school and saw the strike as a protest of the erosion of the middle class in Los Angeles, driven in large measure by rising housing costs.

Parents don't have access to the quality public education that past generations did, said Goodman, who marched alongside his kids' teachers at Valley View Elementary.

"This was a revolt of the middle class," said Goodman, a former communications director for a city union. "Middle-class people in Southern California are fed up."

Still, not everyone knew of the strike, said Maisie Chin, executive director of Community Asset Development Re-defining Education, an independent group that works with parents of L.A. Unified students in South Los Angeles. She saw small numbers of parents and striking teachers in South L.A.

"The unification didn't reach the trenches," Chin said. "It underscored the need to look in places like South L.A. and reexamine how closely parents are aware of the strike and the issues."

The question to ask, she said, is "which parents are being engaged, and were the most marginalized parents being approached? And that mainly means African Americans."

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, raised the issue of inequity when she joined marching students last week in Los Angeles. By seeking smaller class sizes and job protections for teachers, UTLA was "fighting for the schools that all children deserve, not some children deserve," she said.

"Frankly, these are things that every middle-class or rich parent demands of the schools that their kids go to," Weingarten said.

With long-term funding still an issue for L.A. Unified, money could potentially come from passage of a 2020 ballot measure that would change Proposition 13 or from a possible local parcel tax. It remains uncertain whether the public's support for public education will carry over at the polls.

Other labor strikes are on the horizon in cities including Oakland, where the local teachers union is expected next week to vote on a strike.

UTLA's Caputo-Pearl said this week that labor movements across the country should take note of his union's approach. The L.A. strike was about the "broader common good, and not so much about a narrow working contract," he said.

## **LAist**

### **How Mayor Eric Garcetti And A 'Leap Of Faith' Helped End LA's Teachers Strike**

By: Kyle Stokes

On the day Los Angeles Unified School District teachers went on strike, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** suggested resolving the dispute might require a small "leap of faith" by school district officials.

By that, Garcetti meant it might require LAUSD officials to commit to spend more on the contract demands of the teachers

union, United Teachers Los Angeles, even if they didn't yet know where the funding would come from.

Two days later, the mayor announced his staff would broker new talks between UTLA and LAUSD at City Hall. Over five days of negotiations — including a 21-hour, all-night session from Monday into Tuesday — the parties hammered out a tentative contract agreement.

Over a three-and-a-half year contract term, LAUSD officials agreed to spend more money to gradually meet several key UTLA demands: reducing class sizes and hiring more support staff. District officials say, though, that the deal will hinge on all three parties — LAUSD, UTLA and the Mayor's Office — finding new streams of funding for the school district.

The cost of the new agreement really ramps up starting in 2021. If the district can't find new sources of revenue by 2020, both LAUSD and city officials have said the deal would likely have to be revisited.

In other words, Garcetti's "leap of faith" is part of that agreement.

On Wednesday morning, after Garcetti read to students in a transitional kindergarten class at Elysian Heights Elementary, KPCC/LAist sat down with Garcetti to discuss the deal.

KPCC/LAist has condensed the mayor's answers below, editing for length and clarity. Quote from this readout with caution.

*KPCC/LAist: Before the strike, there was a question of whether you were going to get involved in the negotiations. You offered to host the talks at City Hall, but the union and the district declined at first. What was the turning point that wound up putting you and your team in the middle?*

Garcetti: I was never "rejected." I think that's been misreported. I've been speaking to the parties involved since August, so when the strike happened, I encouraged them to go to the table we'd already offered — a neutral space if ever they needed mediation. I was very surprised how little communication was going on not only between the principle players, but one level down from that. We worked really hard talking to school board members, the superintendent and union leaders to say, "What can we do to help move this along?" It seemed very clear to me that that there was such frustration on both sides.

*KPCC/LAist: Part of the rift between the union and the district had to do with how much money LAUSD does or doesn't have. Do you think LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner was operating with the best motives? Do you think he's right that there's a problem with the district finances, and that there are vital questions about sustainability that need to be taken seriously?*

GARCETTI: Oh, I think it's his job to be stressed out about finances just as it is for me as mayor, or the governor, or any chief executive needs to make sure they aren't overpromising. But as we began to dig into the finances, we realized that there was probably some common space where the district could stretch enough. The superintendent and the union have said, in the future, we're going to probably need to go to the ballot and ask people if they want classes with 45 students in them. I tried to convince both sides to act responsibly but aggressively. In other words, this is not the time to be conservative. This is the time to look at those reserves, but not recklessly.

*KPCC/LAist: After the negotiations transitioned over to City Hall, talks appeared to have turned toward a three-year contract, as opposed to arguing over what will happen in the next 18 months. How did that happen?*

GARCETTI: I think it became clear that a lot of what we wanted couldn't be done in the life of the contract. This was really about the classroom size. Even if you snap your fingers and had all the money in the world, it takes time to hire teachers. Other things take time, too. There's a nurse shortage in this country. We have to make sure we have librarians and counselors. And green spaces.

Making an agreement for the next three years was something that the union was interested in doing. The district was, I think, initially curious about whether that could be achieved. But we found that we could come up with a legally binding way forward — a longer-term contract where nobody will feel like the rug has been pulled out from underneath them.

*KPCC/LAist: I'm keying in on the three-year piece as a sort of turning point in the talks, but was there some other thing that really got things rolling downhill?*

GARCETTI: No. I think just getting together face-to-face with a neutral party helped. They had gotten together twice already, but were in many ways still talking past each other. So when my team got involved, both Superintendent Austin Beutner and Alex Caputo-Pearl, the head of the union, sat down every day before each meeting, before the parties and the bargaining teams would get together. And at the very beginning, I said, "I just asked you to abide some rules: respect confidentiality; no surprises; stay positive — and no matter how bad things get, we are going to finish this. Go breathe, go event, yell at me if you need to, but get back to the table."



*KPCC/LAist: There were some long sessions. How did everyone endure?*

GARCETTI: We had huge make-your-own taco platters. There was a lot of Sun Chips, a lot of coffee. My negotiating practice was to start with really good food and big rooms. And then every day the room would get smaller and the food would get worse. So by the end, you're in a closet with really crappy pizza. Interestingly enough, I might have to change that. Because I think we did the opposite. As things got better. The food got better. And it became kind of a culinary reward for progress.

*KPCC/LAist: You've said that these are people that are going to walk away and have a beer together. Was it pretty tense in the room?*

GARCETTI: I don't think people became best friends overnight. But I think there was absolute trust that was developed among people. I told everyone, "If you can create a relationship with each other, that gives me a lot of encouragement that we should all spend our political capital, our treasure, our talent in making this district better." There were human moments.

*KPCC/LAist: This is a deal that requires more funding in the future. How will that look? Is a parcel tax going to be on the table? Is building the airplane while attempting to fly it kind of dangerous?*

GARCETTI: No, I think it's absolutely necessary, because it's stayed grounded for too long, nobody's taken off at all. You have to be willing to fly. I do think we'll need state help. We saw it in the governor's budget, and I hope it continues in future budgets. And I think we will. It is substantial. But no, it's not enough. That's why I think a state measure would help us get there and a local measure should be coming.

I will consider supporting either an initiative that will go to operations and allow us to continue the momentum of reducing class size or help us to build out the schools and create green spaces and really great learning environments. So much of this always comes down to dollars and policies that we forget what's it like for a kid that's in a class with 42 students in a bungalow. That isn't acceptable in our town. We need to take it from okay to good and from good to great.

*KPCC/LAist: Gotta ask — can you run for president now?*

GARCETTI: This was not about me. This week was all about our children. This was all about a school district. You know, somebody said, I should probably go to Washington, D.C. and work on the shutdown next. I'm actually headed there in a couple hours

*KPCC/LAist: Just for a conference though, right?*

GARCETTI: Just for the Conference of Mayors. But I'm going to share this story with them, because I hope it inspires people nationally — that this wasn't just about L.A., it's a good model for our national leaders too.

*KPCC/LAist: There's not a podium there with an American flag behind it and a crowd waiting?*

GARCETTI: No, there's no surprise in Washington, just a mayor doing his work.

**NPR**

### **After Tentative Deal, Teachers Return To Los Angeles Classrooms**

DAVID GREENE, HOST: The big news here around Los Angeles this morning - tens of thousands of public school teachers from the LA Unified School District, the nation's second-biggest, are heading back to the classroom. A six-day strike ended last night after a deal between the union and school officials was ratified. This deal includes a pay hike for teachers, also a commitment to reduce class size, and it will bring in more school nurses. This is elementary school teacher Jennifer Liebe-Zelazny.

JENNIFER LIEBE-ZELAZNY: I am actually pretty excited about our new, tentative agreement. Nobody got everything, but everybody got something.

GREENE: And then this is teacher Jesenia Chavez. She said that she felt that the community had really rallied around the teachers.

JESENIA CHAVEZ: We reached a place where people respect us and people care about us. And it's really - I feel like a rock star, like, with my red T-shirt. And I feel like I'm appreciated and valued by my city. And I completely want to say thank you 100 percent to everyone who supported us.

GREENE: All right. Kyle Stokes covers education for member station KPCC, and he's with me in our studios at NPR

West. Good morning, Kyle.

KYLE STOKES, BYLINE: Morning, David.

GREENE: All right. So the strike you've been covering for, like, almost a week now is over.

STOKES: Yes.

GREENE: Tell us what's in this deal that brought the two sides together.

STOKES: Well, so, first of all, the teachers are going to get a raise. They had been - the district had been offering a 6 percent raise for months, and the teachers have accepted that. The district also has offered to raise staffing levels of nurses, counselors and librarians as the union had been looking for for a long time. So, for instance, over the next two or three years, the district is going to roll out enough school nurses to make sure that every Los Angeles Unified School has a school nurse on campus five days week, which isn't the case right now...

GREENE: Because there were some days when there was no nurse at all - right? - at some of those schools.

STOKES: Some days when there's no nurse at all or one or two days a week. But the big breakthrough here, David, is class sizes. Not only has the district agreed to try and hit some very ambitious targets for reducing class sizes in Los Angeles over the next three years, the district also gave up this power that it had under the old contract to essentially raise class sizes almost whenever it wants. Class size reduction is very expensive, and the district felt like it needed flexibility, thus this provision in the old contract, kind of a safety valve that would let them raise class sizes in order to save money. They gave that up. That's a big win for the union.

GREENE: OK. So the teachers got a lot of what they were asking for.

STOKES: A lot of what they were asking for, but it's going to have to be spread out over three years, so that's sort of the compromise there.

GREENE: The school district had been saying they just didn't have the money for some of this stuff. Is there a concern about coming up with that money or what this might do to the school district if they've committed to spending so much?

STOKES: Well, the key here is that the deal has been spread out over 3 1/2 years. So instead of trying to hit this one-year window, which is what had been happening before, the district trying to figure out how to scramble and come up with this money to cover just one year, now they've got three years to try and figure out how to pay for all of this. And there is sort of an understanding that - as the **mayor of Los Angeles**, who's been sort of facilitating these talks - that the district is going to try and take a leap of faith here, that they're going to try and have to figure out how to pay for all of this over the next three years, try and secure more state funding, maybe more local funding through some sort of property tax increase. We call it a parcel tax here. That - at least the district now, because it's been spread out over 3 1/2 years, they have some time to figure out how to make this work. But there is a question of how they are going to make this work financially.

GREENE: Kyle, a lot of people around the country are paying attention to this strike, and some of the national coverage focuses - focused on the growth of charter schools in LA. How did that impact these negotiations to this strike?

STOKES: Well - so charter schools aren't necessarily central to the dispute on the contract negotiating table, but they are central to the reasons why teachers are striking because charter schools, the competition with charters, is central to a lot of teachers' anxieties. Now, there are some regulations that have been written into the new contract. I would not call them central to the deal here. There also is going to be a school board vote on a resolution that would ask the state to cap the number of charter schools here in Los Angeles. Now, that says that something again can't be part of the contract deal. It needs to be something that state lawmakers do. But it looks like a charter-friendly majority on the school board here in Los Angeles is going to vote on a resolution that would call for that.

GREENE: Kyle Stokes from member station KPCC. Kyle, thanks.

STOKES: You're welcome.

**NPR**

**News Brief: LA Teachers, Government Shutdown And Its Impact On FBI**

DAVID GREENE, HOST: Big news here around LA. Students attending school in Los Angeles today will find something different - teachers in the classrooms.

STEVE INSKEEP, HOST: A six-day teacher strike is over. The educators were demanding better pay, smaller class sizes

and other changes. Support for this deal was overwhelming, although different teachers see different implications for them. NPR asked a few what they thought.

JENNIFER LIEBE-ZELAZNY: I am actually pretty excited about our new, tentative agreement.

TERESA RIVAS-NASOQUEQE: Feeling a little uneasy and not fully satisfied with the agreement.

LIEBE-ZELAZNY: We are going to have smaller class sizes. That's big.

JESENIA CHAVEZ: For my class setting, the number of students actually increased.

RIVAS-NASOQUEQE: But I'm excited in moving forward to see what else we can accomplish as a collective.

INSKEEP: Those are teachers Jennifer Liebe-Zelazny, Teresa Rivas-Nasoqueqe (ph) and Jesenia Chavez.

GREENE: All right. Kyle Stokes is the education reporter from member station KPCC and joins me here in our studios at NPR West. Kyle, good morning. You've been covering a six-day strike, and it's over.

KYLE STOKES, BYLINE: Oh, boy, I'm tired.

GREENE: I bet you are. Well - so it sounds like from those voices that there are still some - a lot of questions, but there is a deal. Teachers are going to get back to the classroom. What is in the deal? What are the details here?

STOKES: Well - so the deal includes a raise for teachers. That wasn't a big question. They had been looking for a 6 1/2 percent raise, but they've been - it looked like they were going to accept the 6 percent raise the district has been offering for months. It also looks like the teachers are going to get the hiring of new staff of nurses, of counselors and school librarians that they had been asking for, for instance. The union says that the district will hire enough nurses now to guarantee a nurse in every school five days a week, which is something that not a lot of schools have right now. Coming up in just a few years is when that's going to be in place.

The big breakthrough, David, though, was on class sizes, that the district agreed to try and hit some very ambitious targets for reducing class sizes here in Los Angeles schools. But they're going to do it over 3 1/2 years instead of the kind of one-year window that they'd been trying to hit before.

The other piece of the class size deal is that the school district gave up the power that it had in the old contract to essentially raise class sizes almost whenever they want because class size reduction is very expensive. And the district felt like they needed this flexibility in order to save money in the event of a fiscal crisis. The district gave that up, and the union found that old provision very toxic. They find that concession to be a huge one.

GREENE: All right. A lot more nurses, guarantees of smaller class size - these things cost money. The district had been saying they don't have the money. Did they come up with more money? What happened?

STOKES: Well - so part of this is still being costed out. It's still not entirely clear how much the entire deal is going to spend. And that's going to be calculated over the next couple of days. But on the class size and staffing pieces, part of the way that the district is going to pay for it is by spreading this out over 3 1/2 years, again, instead of that one-year window we had been talking about before.

But what also appears to be happening, David, is that the district is taking what Mayor Eric Garcetti called the leap of faith, that the funding is going to materialize somewhere, that either the state is going to come in down the road with more funding, that maybe local voters are going to raise their own property taxes. It is that leap of faith that seems to be what's going to move forward here. And that's going to be the way that the district is going to make this work is what it appears.

GREENE: It feels like a big moment of coming together. Is that what teachers and others involved are saying to you? Or is there still some sort of uncertainty out there?

STOKES: A big moment of coming together, yeah. There's a lot of relief certainly among parents that this is - that this deal is done.

GREENE: Sure.

STOKES: Teachers obviously feeling very empowered, like they got a lot done with this deal, and some actually, a minority apparently, felt like they maybe could have gotten more. But we saw overwhelming majorities vote in favor of this tentative agreement and look like they're ready to accept it.

GREENE: All right. Strike over in Los Angeles, although teachers in Denver are planning to strike beginning on Monday.



So we're going to have to keep our eyes on that. Kyle Stokes from member station KPCC covers education here. Kyle, thanks.

STOKES: You're welcome.

(SOUNDBITE OF MUSIC)

INSKEEP: This week, the Senate will vote on two bills to end the partial government shutdown.

GREENE: That's right, two bills. One of them is backed by Republicans. The other is backed by Democrats. What the bills have in common is that neither is expected to actually pass. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell spoke for the Republican option.

(SOUNDBITE OF ARCHIVED RECORDING)

MITCH MCCONNELL: The proposal outlined by President Trump is the only one currently before us that can be signed by the president and immediately reopen the government.

GREENE: Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said that bill has no chance.

(SOUNDBITE OF ARCHIVED RECORDING)

CHUCK SCHUMER: The president's proposal is one-sided, harshly partisan and was made in bad faith.

GREENE: OK. Now Democrats, then, have backed the same measure that passed the Senate by unanimous consent back in December, a bill that has no funding for a border wall. That one died after President Trump said he wouldn't sign it.

INSKEEP: NPR White House correspondent Tamara Keith is following this story. Tamara, good morning.

TAMARA KEITH, BYLINE: Good morning.

INSKEEP: How are these bills different, other than one having border funding - border wall funding and the other not?

KEITH: Well, that's the big one. But the other difference is, really, one is simply a clean bill to fund the government for a short period of time. It would basically - the Democratic bill basically reopens the government for a couple of weeks to allow negotiations to continue. President Trump's bill, the Republican bill, is based on the remarks that the president delivered over the weekend. It includes wall funding, other border security funds. It also would have a temporary extension for the DACA program for young people known as DREAMers, as well as some other extensions for other immigrant groups. And it makes some pretty significant changes to the way the asylum works. And that, Democrats say, is a poison pill that is built into that measure.

INSKEEP: That - it's one of the parts that Chuck Schumer would refer to as being bad faith. So does voting on these two bills, neither of which seems likely to get 60 votes and pass, advance the process in any way?

KEITH: Well, sometimes taking votes that fail proves what can pass and what can't pass, and then they can move on. So in that sense, it might advance things. I mean, at least they're voting on something - right? - which they haven't done much of on the Senate side or any of on the Senate side as long as this shutdown has been going on. But does it resolve the underlying problem? No. The underlying problem is that President Trump doesn't want to end the shutdown - that he said he would be proud to own - until he has funding for a border wall. And Democrats say they don't want to start negotiating over a border wall until the government is reopened.

INSKEEP: Are lawmakers or the White House feeling increasing pressure?

KEITH: I think that they are. The pain is growing from the shutdown as it continues. Admiral Karl Schultz, the commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, posted a video last night on Twitter. He says we're five-plus weeks into this government lapse, and your anxiety and your non-pay, you as members of the armed forces should not be expected to shoulder this burden.

(SOUNDBITE OF VIDEO)

KARL SCHULTZ: I find it unacceptable that Coast Guard men and women have to rely on food pantries and donations to get through day-to-day life as service members.

KEITH: And then he made sure that they knew about assistance that's available. That is not a good look.

INSKEEP: No, hearing a commandant say that this is an unacceptable situation. Tamara, thanks so much.

KEITH: You're welcome.

INSKEEP: That is NPR's Tamara Keith.

Now, the shutdown is also affecting the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

GREENE: Yeah. Thomas O'Connor is the president of the FBI Agents Association. He says that the shutdown is making it more difficult for the agency to do its job to protect the people of the country from criminals and terrorists. It sounds like the shutdown is affecting a lot of important operations at the agency, including going after terrorists, drug traffickers, also gangs.

INSKEEP: NPR justice reporter Ryan Lucas is here to tell us more. He's in our studios in Washington. Ryan, good morning.

RYAN LUCAS, BYLINE: Good morning.

INSKEEP: So how is it that this shutdown affects the FBI?

LUCAS: Well, according to the FBI Agents Association, the impact of the partial shutdown is pretty significant on them. The association represents around 14,000 active and retired FBI special agents, so they have representation members in all of the field offices across the country. And the group released a report yesterday that outlines how this lack of funding is hindering the FBI's work. It's based off of anonymous comments from members. And they say that it's having an impact on everything from training to operations and investigations. And the kinds of investigations that are taking a hit are serious. We're talking about sex trafficking, crimes against children, counterterrorism, cybersecurity, violent gangs, drug traffickers, everything. The Agents Association also says that this may have a long-term impact on the FBI on its ability to recruit and retain the kind of talent that it needs to do its job.

INSKEEP: Oh, sure, because it's embarrassing to have people not paid. But I want to understand this a little better. I presume that a lot of FBI agents are considered essential personnel. They're not being paid, but they're told to show up to work, meaning they can investigate things. But they're sending word they're unable to investigate even though they're on the job. Why would that be?

LUCAS: Well, one thing that stands out in this report again and again is agents saying that they no longer have the money to pay confidential sources who are critical to their investigations.

INSKEEP: Oh, who are not necessarily willing to wait till the end of the shutdown to get paid, I suppose.

LUCAS: When sources aren't getting paid, sources can dry up. Sources can go silent. And these sorts of sources are used in a lot of the work that the FBI does, stuff that I mentioned earlier - the counterterrorism cases, counterintelligence, gang, drugs. One example from the report comes from an agent who says that they're investigating a street gang that's pushing a lot of methamphetamine and heroin. And the agent says that their probe has been undermined because they don't have money to pay their confidential sources. And they also don't have money to make controlled purchases of drugs, which is something that they often use in narcotics investigations. Now...

INSKEEP: I'm just imagining an undercover officer having to stand there and say, listen; I can pay you for this. I just need to wait a couple weeks or maybe a little longer. No, go on, go on. I'm sorry.

LUCAS: (Laughter) Now, you also have to remember that the FBI doesn't work on its own. It can't do all of what it needs to do in order to carry out investigation on its own. It works closely with state and local law enforcement. The Agents Association says that in some cases that sort of cooperation has been hampered because they can't pay those partners for work on their joint investigations. And they also say that grand jury subpoenas are being delayed because there are no funds for them, and staff at U.S. attorneys' offices are furloughed.

INSKEEP: How are unpaid agents personally affected?

LUCAS: It's really hurting them, according to the FBI Agents Association. There are even food banks that have been set up at some of the field offices to try to help people make ends meet.

INSKEEP: OK. Ryan, thanks so much, really appreciate it.

LUCAS: Thank you.

INSKEEP: That's NPR's Ryan Lucas.

## LA Daily News

### A 9-day LAUSD teacher strike took a financial toll. Here are some numbers

The teacher strike that rocked LA's public schools over nine days was definitely a blow to the second largest district in the nation.

A bunch of numbers have been bandied about. But here's a rundown on what we know about the financial blow to the Los Angeles Unified School District, and on a few other things, like whether teachers will take a financial hit for walking out.

- By Tuesday, the last day of the nine-day strike, an estimated \$151.4 million was lost in state funding as a result of the nine-day strike.
- The loss was because of a huge dip in attendance during the strike last week. Regular attendance at the district's more than 1,000 K-12 schools hovers close to half a million. On Wednesday, the first day back after the strike, attendance was back up to 93 percent, right around 458,700, according to the district.
- The amount in lost revenue is partially offset by an estimated \$10 million per day not paid out to Los Angeles Unified School District employees during that period.
- A district spokeswoman said employees will not be paid for the six days they didn't report to work during the strike.

A high school teacher from the San Fernando Valley said she doesn't expect to get paid for the days she was out of the classroom and was unsure how the latest negotiated pay raise would fill the gap.

"I'm limited in what I know," said Diana, adding it was her first year teaching in the district and she was uncomfortable giving her last name out of concern for her job. "Personally, my next paycheck will be short. But, I think it was worth it. It was a small sacrifice."

A representative from Board of Education member Scott Schmerelson's office said he is waiting on answers from the school district on issues regarding teacher back pay and other issues related to the strike.

While some of her colleagues were taking a wait-and-see attitude, Kara Carlos, a psychiatric social worker with LAUSD School of Mental Health SFV Clinic, was saving a little bit each pay check, just in case. Her husband, who doesn't work for the school district like some of her colleagues, took on extra shifts to cover the lost days she anticipated might come to past.

"This was a sacrifice, but an important one," Carlos said on Wednesday.

And there's future cost to think about.

The new agreement, which still needs to be signed off by the Board of Education and the Los Angeles County Office of Education, includes a 6 percent pay raise for teachers, with 3 percent retroactive to the 2017-18 school year and another 3 percent retroactive to July 1, 2018.

According to the district, the proposed agreement's provisions for reducing class sizes and hiring nurses, librarians and counselors will cost an estimated \$175 million from 2019-21, and \$228 million for 2021-22.

It was unclear exactly how the costs will be covered. **Garcetti** said the deal's various provisions will include a combination of funding or other support from the state, county and city.

## CBS Los Angeles

### 6-Day Teachers Strike Cost LAUSD \$151 Million

LOS ANGELES (CBSLA) — The six-day teachers strike and the steep drop in attendance will cost the Los Angeles Unified School District more than \$151 million.

As teachers return to the classroom Wednesday, more than 600,000 students are expected to return with them. "A vast super-majority" of the more than 30,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles voted to approve the tentative agreement hammered out over the long holiday weekend, with the help of Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**.

But even as the more than 1,000 schools overseen by the district get back into normal operations, it will have to grapple with the major revenue shortfall caused by the strike.

According to numbers released by the district, the first day of the strike saw attendance drop to 156,774, costing the

district \$22.8 million. On the second day, the number of students out of school rose to 171,480, but cost the district slightly less at \$21.7 million.

The strike only got more expensive on day three, with 134,724 students out of school, costing the district \$24.4 million. On the fourth and fifth day, attendance dropped to 84,160 and 87,559, respectively. Even though these days saw more students in school, they cost the district the most – about \$28 million each day.

On Tuesday, the last day of the strike, 110,881 students were at LAUSD schools, which lost \$26.2 million that day.

The total gross revenue lost during the strike is \$151.4 million, based on the attendance numbers available Tuesday. The district notes that all the numbers provided were what were available at the time of reporting, and that attendance needs to be validated.

Average daily attendance funds all California schools and is the single largest source of revenue for districts.

*Also covered by: Telemundo*

### **LA School Report**

**The teacher strike is over. Now parents who felt ignored want to be included as LAUSD and UTLA move forward with their new agreement**

By: Esmeralda Fabian Romero

While tens of thousands of Los Angeles educators and families on Wednesday celebrated the end of the six-day teacher strike, about a dozen parents held their own news conference outside City Hall to make sure their voices were heard too.

Wearing white to signify neutrality, they said they felt that parents, particularly those in high-needs schools, were sidelined during the negotiations and the strike. Now that the teachers contract is settled, they want to make sure they are included in the local decision-making at their schools. They want to advocate for more school funding and be able to give input on how it's spent. They hope they don't have to experience another strike, but if there's another protracted disagreement between the teachers union and the district that so significantly impacts their children's education, they want their voices to be represented at the table.

"We are here, parents from traditional district schools, charters and other public schools, to say that we are independent, that we want to be included in the conversation between the two institutions that decided to be on strike and didn't pay attention to us," Ana Carreón said in Spanish to the small circle of journalists and television cameras that numbered nearly as many as the parents.

"Some of us felt intimidated during the strike to support one side or the other, and that was not fair. We're now grateful for both parties that they ended it, but we want parents to be included in future negotiations. This is not the end, this is just the beginning," said Carreón, mother of a senior at Foshay Learning Center near downtown.

"This is not the end," echoed Evelyn Alemán, who has a child at Grover Cleveland Charter High School and who is a member of the LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee. "We're ready to continue advocating, working closely with the district, with the state, with the teachers union to improve our schools, but we need transparency. We don't want just to be spectators. We want to be part of the action."

Alemán emphasized that the parents' position on the strike was "neutral" and that it's time "to work toward healing the fractured school relationships as a result and avoid further disruption to school communities, student instruction and learning."

She said they wanted to represent low-income students, those who are homeless and in foster care, English learners and immigrant students and their families, who "should never be asked to endure another strike. Their stories were largely unnoticed, but their stories need to be told," Alemán said. "As parents representing our children, we are here to make a call toward unity, healing and action."

L.A. Unified serves nearly half a million students, 82 percent of whom live in poverty. More than 17,000 experience homelessness. It's estimated that 1 in 4 students has a parent who is an undocumented immigrant. And nearly half are or have been English learners, so they don't have access to the more rigorous courses that are required for access to the state's public universities.

The parents said they were grateful for the leadership of L.A. Unified and United Teachers Los Angeles as well as Mayor Eric Garcetti for reaching an agreement so educators could return to their classrooms. They also said that during the last 10 days of negotiations they felt "largely ignored" and they now want to collaborate with both parties to ease the impact of the strike's aftermath for the most vulnerable students in the district.

"The last 10 days were very difficult for all district families. They felt forced to choose sides, they felt left out of the conversation, and most importantly, they felt concerned about the impact that the strike would have on their child's education," said Oscar Cruz, president and CEO of Families In Schools, an L.A.-based parent advocacy nonprofit that serves about 5,000 L.A. families a year and helped the parents organize Wednesday's news conference.

"When we hear everything is back to normal, we know that's not the case. We have a lot of work to do ahead of us," Cruz said. "We know that when schools partner with parents, student outcomes increase. Parents are the most important advocates for their children, so when parents have a voice in local decision-making, schools are better and become more equitable environments."

Cruz told LA School Report that because of the strike, people from his organization who assist parents and seniors with their college applications were not able to provide that help.

"We provide that service to families at school sites, so because of the strike our staff had to be away from schools last week. So more than 100 high school families missed about an hour of college counseling and mentorship. That's 100 hours of service that got lost," Cruz said.

On Tuesday, Garcetti, who acted as mediator in the last days of the contract negotiations, called the agreement "good news" and "a new day for public education in Los Angeles." But he also said that the strike was "painful and had a cost."

During the six days of the strike, L.A. Unified reported a gross revenue loss of about \$150 million from sharply lower attendance.

"Definitely the strike had a cost. I guess the good news came when the governor announced his new budget and there's more money than we were expecting. But at the same time we lost all this money," said Kathy Kantner, an L.A. Unified parent who spoke Wednesday and sits on a district parent committee.

"There's also a lot of concern about the loss of instruction, and that's a cost as well," Kantner said.

"We ask state and local leaders to commit more investments in our public schools. Particularly, we urge the teachers union and the district to include us in the decision-making process that impacts those investments that affect our children's academic achievement. We can be active participants in our children's education. We don't want to be sidelined, we want to be part of the action," Maria León, a parent from East Los Angeles, said in Spanish.

Mayra Pacheco said she was there to speak on behalf of charter school parents. Her three children attend Vaughn Next Century Learning Center, a charter school in Pacoima in the east San Fernando Valley. She said one of her main concerns now is that she heard the new agreement would limit options for other parents like her who are just looking for a better school option.

"We don't think of schools as traditional, magnets or charters. We just look for good schools for our children. If the union asked the district to limit those options, that would hurt families like mine and that makes me sad," Pacheco said. "If we look for other options, that's because we were not seeing good results in our traditional schools."

Just 42 percent of L.A. Unified students met reading standards this year on this year's state tests, and 32 percent met math standards. Among Latinos, who make up three-quarters of district enrollment, 36 percent met English standards and 25 percent met math standards. English learners were the student group with the lowest proficiency rate: 96 percent didn't meet reading standards, and 95 percent didn't meet math standards.

Hilda Ávila, whose son attends Fries Avenue Elementary in Wilmington in south Los Angeles, said she didn't send her son to school during the strike because she supported teachers on the picket lines, but she came to Wednesday's news conference to give voice to low-income immigrant parents who had to send their kids to school and had to face hostility even from other parents.

"We need to understand each other's stories and get to know the reasons why they had no other choice. Now it's time to move away from our differences and collaborate. It's time to be very involved and advocate together for more funding for our schools and avoid another strike happening again," Ávila said in Spanish.

Alemán thanked Families In Schools and other organizations as they have helped "elevate our voices."

"As educators and students go back to schools, parents want to be heard by the Los Angeles educational community," Cruz said.

**USA Today**

**Los Angeles teacher: Our strike was worth it to help students and improve schools**

By: Larry Strauss

It turned out to be a seven-day strike for Los Angeles teachers — including Martin Luther King Day, for which we will now not be paid — and it was worth it. Reducing class size, even just a little, helps our most challenged students the most. And it increases the likelihood that new teachers will survive those first few months and years. So will the moderate pay increase.

It is a shame that we had to walk out at all. I know some two-teacher families that will struggle with next month's short paycheck. We've got students trying to get ready for AP tests and college, and students whose only stability is their teachers and our classes. There isn't anything in our new contract that could not have been given to us two weeks or two months ago — especially when you consider the millions of dollars in revenue the district has lost because of low student attendance during the strike.

Superintendent Austin Beutner knows this, so perhaps he held out to test the strength of teachers and our union. Perhaps he did not believe we would walk out or stay out, or that parents and the public would stand with us. Perhaps he hoped to break or at least to weaken the United Teachers Los Angeles.

If so, that was a foolish hope. A Loyola Marymount University poll of parents in our community had them supporting us by nearly 80 percent. For thousands of teachers who stood out on the street and heard drivers blast their horns continually to show solidarity, that was not a surprise at all.

### *Fighting for all students, teachers and schools*

We were not just representing the teachers and students of our district but public school teachers and students throughout this country — inspired by teachers in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Colorado and Arizona — demanding adequate funding for schools. And we were representing workers from throughout this nation's history who often put their lives on the line for better pay and working conditions.

On Saturday, at a union strike meeting, I saw two women who were now on the line in their third strike. The first was in 1971 when they went out for 23 days in order to create the union. Now, near the end of their teaching careers, they were with us marching to save the union at a time when organized labor and the middle class are under assault.

We are educators and so this was also about improving the conditions in which our children can learn and prosper and be informed citizens. In an era of fake news perpetrated as espionage, educating the next generation is essential to preserving our democracy.

### *A lesson in confronting economic injustice*

Which makes it incredible that we had to fight for any of this. And ironic that Mayor **Eric Garcetti's** political aspirations — he wants to run for president — are what it took to get him involved and get us to an agreement.

This time our superintendent, and the interests that elevated him to his job, underestimated our resolve and, perhaps, our intelligence. This time educators and students and parents hung together and stayed tough through rain and wind and through the insult of a leader, a non-educator, who tried to devalue us.

We will return to work now stronger and more resolved to educate the children of this city. This was an important lesson for everyone, perhaps most of all our students who will hopefully have the strength to stand up to all the economic injustices they will soon have to confront.

### **LA Daily News**

#### **LAUSD teachers return to classrooms on first day back after massive strike**

By: Ariella Plachta and David Rosenfeld

After a nine-day strike that disrupted learning at hundreds of Los Angeles schools, the city's public school teachers, counselors, librarians and psychologists returned to classrooms on Wednesday.

Though overwhelmingly relieved to be back at work, administrators and teachers were also faced with the challenge of returning to normal campus routines after a week of strife and months of contentious contract negotiations.

As students filed into school in their uniforms, teacher Hannah Yahudian at Mulholland Middle School Wednesday morning said she felt Tuesday's morning announcement and subsequent evening approval of a deal was rushed.

"I wish we had more time to look it over. Hearing about it at 12 o'clock and voting on it at 5 o'clock, I was pouring over it with a fine-toothed comb," she said.

The deal includes a 6 percent raise for teachers, a reduction of one student per class next year in grades 4 through 12



with one more the year after and two more the year after that. It still must be reviewed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education and approved by the L.A. school board.

At Mulholland Middle School in Balboa Park, multiple teachers decided to cross the picket lines and stay in classrooms. Yahudian seemed confident professionalism would prevail.

"We can have a difference of opinion and still get along with each other. Maybe I'm being overly optimistic, but I'm happy to be back at work and I'm happy to see my friends that were and weren't on the line."

Coordinator of the school's robotics program Joel Domine agreed.

"When it comes to coming to school with a grudge, I have too much to do and can't burden myself with that stuff," he said. "Trust me when I tell you that when those teachers go back they are so happy to be teaching again and being back at work."

Domine said he felt particularly inspired by the deal's announcement Tuesday as L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** described students who sounded akin to Mulholland Middle's own.

"He said 'It's the young lady in the San Fernando who wants to be an engineer and send something to Mars' and I'm just thinking of Ms. Silverman's Mars rover in the robotics class and then he said 'Or the kid who wants to get into film production' and we have that here and then 'or the kid that wants to be in a jazz band' and we have a band here too."

Launching a walkout from Jan. 14 to this past Monday, teachers represented by union United Teachers Los Angeles walked out, seeking smaller class sizes, more pay and greater support staff on their campuses.

They voted to approve a new three-year contract Tuesday evening that was produced following marathon bargaining sessions between the two parties with mediation help by Garcetti.

Mulholland Middle principal Dr. Gregory Vallone said it's too soon to reflect on the transition process from the strike and whether the new contract will reflect in real change at schools.

"On site, you've got to see how things play out. Because they say this thing and that thing is going to happen. But when you're really on the front lines doing the work, you see how everything lays out at your school," he said.

Vallone oversaw between 400 and 800 on each day of the strike, with at least 60 adult staff on hand – including teachers who crossed the picket line, substitute and administrators.

Teachers said that some of their colleagues were worried about retirement benefits, some were new teachers afraid of losing their position and others simply disagreed with union conduct and demands.

At Carson Street Elementary Wednesday morning in Carson, parent Dorris Espinosa dropped her three nieces and nephews off at school with a sigh of relief. Espinosa had been playing teacher the past week, attempting to instruct the kids on math and other subjects using textbooks she had at home.

"Now I know what the teachers feel like," she said with a smile.

Although it was a challenge to make it through the week with the kids at home, Espinosa said she felt the minor disruption was worth gains made.

Earlier this year, Espinosa said her nephew fell and struck his head at school and there was no school nurse on campus that day, which made getting care for him more difficult. As part of the deal struck between UTLA and LAUSD officials this week, the district agreed to staff every school with a full-time nurse.

"It was good in a way because the teachers got what they wanted," she said.

Pia Alcaayaga, who dropped her daughter off at Carson Street Elementary echoed that sentiment. Instead of going to school, her daughter went to her friend's house each day.

"It's not good or bad," Alcaayaga said. "I felt bad because my child was out of school but it had a purpose so it was worth it."

Rick Sander who had a 5th grader at Carson Elementary School said he was happy to have his daughter back in school.

"It was boring," he said. "She wanted more learning but she had no choice... It's enough."

## **ABC Los Angeles**

### **LAUSD strike: Teachers back in classrooms after voting to approve deal**

By: John Gregory and Anabel Munoz

LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- Teachers overwhelmingly approved a new contract and returned to the classroom after a six-day strike over funding and staffing in the nation's second-largest school district.

Although all votes hadn't been counted as of Wednesday morning, preliminary figures showed that a "vast supermajority" of some 30,000 educators voted in favor of the tentative deal, "therefore ending the strike and heading back to schools tomorrow," said Alex Caputo-Pearl, president of United Teachers Los Angeles.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, accompanied by leaders of the union and the Los Angeles Unified School District, announced the agreement at City Hall a few hours after a 21-hour bargaining session ended before dawn.

"This is a good agreement. It is a historic agreement," Garcetti said.

The deal was described by officials as including a 6-percent pay hike and a commitment to reduce class sizes over four years.

Specifics provided later by the district and the union included the addition of more than 600 nursing positions over the next three school years. Additional counselors and librarians were also part of the increase in support staff.

Marianne O'Brien said the need for additional support staff was one of the main reasons she walked picket lines.

"This is not just for teachers. It's also for counselors, nurses, psychologists and social workers," said O'Brien, who teaches 10th grade English.

The new contract also eliminates a clause that gave the district authority over class sizes. Grades 4 through 12 would be reduced by one student during each of the next two school years and two pupils in 2021-22.

Disputes over pay, class sizes and support-staff levels in the district with 640,000 students led to its first strike in 30 years and prompted the staffing of classrooms with substitute teachers and administrators.

The district insisted that the union's demands could bankrupt the school system, which is projecting a half-billion-dollar deficit this budget year and has billions earmarked for pension payments and health coverage for retired teachers.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said he was glad the deal was reached. But he hinted that financial challenges remained.

"The issue has always been: How do we pay for it?" Beutner said. "That issue does not go away now that we have a contract. We can't solve 40 years of underinvestment in public education in just one week or just one contract."

Thousands of educators, many wearing red, and their supporters gathered on the steps outside City Hall after the tentative agreement was announced.

The crowd began cheering, blowing horns and chanting the initials of Caputo-Pearl as the smiling union leader emerged from the building and walked through the crowd.

Joaquin Flores, a special education teacher, said he believed he would support the deal unless it weakened health care or didn't go far enough to reduce class size.

"It's almost like metaphoric," Flores said. "The sun's out. When we started, it was all rainy and cold. I feel like it's a new day."

## **Los Feliz Ledger**

### **As Classes Resume, It's a Mixed-Bag of Teacher Reactions to Strike Gains**

Thousands of educators and their students returned to class today, following a Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) teachers' strike that stretched over six school days but ended thanks to a marathon negotiating session that resulted in a labor agreement.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who worked with the district and teachers' union to help broker the labor deal, was among those welcoming some students back to school. He posted photos of himself on social media walking to campus with a group of children, then reading to them in class.

"There's a new energy in L.A. around the idea that we can all play a role in giving our kids the excellent public education



they deserve,” wrote Garcetti, who slightly delayed a flight to Washington, D.C., so he could spend time with kids returning to class.

Garcetti is heading to Washington, D.C. to attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors’ winter meeting, which started today and runs through Friday.

The mood was upbeat at campuses across the district, including at Franklin Elementary School in the Los Feliz area, where a group of teachers serenaded students returning to class.

“We’re going to keep on fighting from here, but it’s an excellent start,” teacher Valerie Peralta told KCAL9.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said last night “a vast super-majority” of teachers had voted in favor of the labor agreement, which was announced yesterday morning following a 21-hour negotiating session at City Hall.

The agreement also requires formal approval by the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education. Although that vote is considered a formality, the board cannot vote on it until the pact is reviewed by the county Office of Education, which provides fiscal oversight of the district.

“Our obligation is to ensure that the district has a funding plan in place to cover the costs associated with this agreement, and thereby able to remain fiscally solvent,” county Supt. Debra Duardo said in a statement.

“Now that a tentative agreement is in place, the Los Angeles County Office of Education has the legal obligation to review and provide comments before the LAUSD governing board takes action. While the statute provides a window of 10 working days, we intend to provide these comments as soon as possible once we receive the relevant data,” Duardo said.

UTLA teachers went on strike Jan. 14, calling for smaller class sizes and the hiring of more support staff, such as nurses, counselors and librarians, and a pay raise.

“The strike nobody wanted is now behind us,” LAUSD Supt. Austin Beutner said yesterday when the tentative agreement was announced.

Although some teachers wondered aloud if the strike had been worth it, Caputo-Pearl said the agreement addressed the union’s core issues.

“We have seen over the last week something pretty amazing happen,” UTLA’s Caputo-Pearl said. “We went on strike in one of the largest strikes the United States has seen in decades. And the creativity and innovation and passion and love and emotion of our members was out on the street, in the communities, in the parks for everyone to see.”

Some teachers this morning expressed trepidation at the new contract.

“Elementary teachers aren’t very happy about the contract,” teacher Brenda Hauser told NBC4. “They gave us very few hours to review it. And what we needed the most was the class-size reduction, which we didn’t get much.”

The deal includes a 6% pay raise for teachers, with 3% retroactive to the 2017-18 school year and another 3% retroactive to July 1, 2018.

It also includes provisions for providing a full-time nurse at all schools, along with a teacher-librarian. The proposal also calls for the hiring of 17 counselors by October and outlines a phased-in reduction of class sizes over the next three school years, with additional reductions for “high needs” campuses.

Caputo-Pearl said the issue of class size was a key element of the pact. He said the district agreed to eliminate contract language he dubbed an “escape clause” that would allow the district to increase class sizes in the future.

Additionally, a main thrust of the union’s strike was a call for increases in the number of nurses, counselors and librarians at campuses.

But again, some union members expressed disappointment with the results, including a teacher from Los Feliz’s Marshall High who said in remarks reported in the Los Angeles Times that her room has 36 desks, but some of her classes have up to 40 students.

“I think it’s kind of sad that we had to spend six days getting the numbers that we already had,” she said.

According to the district, the proposed agreement’s provisions for reducing class sizes and hiring nurses, librarians and counselors will cost an estimated \$175 million from 2019-21 and \$228 million for 2021-22.

It was unclear exactly how the costs will be covered. Garcetti said the deal's various provisions will include a combination of funding or other support from the state, county and city, including a promise for the mayor to support a November 2020 ballot initiative that would roll back Proposition 13 property tax limits on commercial buildings to increase state tax revenue for public education.

District officials said the UTLA strike, which kept teachers out of classrooms for six school days, cost the LAUSD an estimated \$151.4 million in attendance-based state funding. That amount is partially offset, however, by an estimated \$10 million per day by the salaries that were not paid to striking teachers.

## **Westside Today**

### **Teachers Return to Westside Schools as Strike Ends**

By: Keldine Hull

On January 14, they took to the picket lines in the first strike to affect LA schools in 30 years. Over a week later, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA), which represents over 30,000 educators, and LAUSD reached a historic agreement that not only benefits educators but also 50,000 students throughout Los Angeles.

Schools on the Westside impacted by the strike included University High School Charter, Brentwood Elementary Science Magnet, Kenter Canyon Elementary, Paul Revere Charter Middle School, Westwood Charter Elementary, Emerson Community Charter, Fairburn Avenue Elementary, Warner Avenue Elementary Venice High School, Broadway Elementary School, Westminster Elementary School, Walgrove Avenue Elementary School and Beethoven Street Elementary School.

UTLA President Alex Caputo- Pearl released a statement regarding the agreement and end to the strike. "For too long teachers have lived with a hard truth to tell- that for years our students were being starved of the resources they need," he begins. "Our expectations were fundamentally raised by this strike. Together we said we deserve better, our students deserve better. We must keep our expectations high and not let go of this moment, because the next struggle is right around the corner."

The terms of the landmark agreement include a 6 percent salary increase for educators, reduced class sizes in grades four through 12, increased nursing and library services, and additional counselors for middle and high schools. Other points in the agreement include a commitment to reduce testing by 50 percent, expand green space and support for immigrant families. LAUSD also agreed to provide more opportunities for collaboration between the District and Union.

11th District Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Bonin who represents much of West L.A. also released a statement praising everyone involved in the agreement. "I am grateful and excited that with Mayor **Garcetti's** leadership, UTLA and LAUSD have reached an agreement to end the strike and return the students and teachers to the classrooms." Bonin continues, "The past week has drawn unprecedented attention to the state of public education in Los Angeles, and I hope has reinvested all of us, from individual neighborhoods all the way to Sacramento, in being part of its success."

LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner feels hopeful that the agreement represents a shift into a positive direction. "Today marks a new chapter in public education for Los Angeles Unified. Public education is the ultimate labor-management collaborative and we are committed to working together to make sure every student gets a great education."

In a press conference held at City Hall following the agreement, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti spoke of the importance of public education to the city of Los Angeles. "All of us have a huge stake in our school. It represents the future, not only of this city but in many ways our core values, who we are, what we see in our children, and what sort of future city we want to have." Garcetti continues, "We've seen over the last few weeks, the way that this city has rallied around public education. Quite frankly, it's been breathtaking. It's been inspiring to see. And for a city that embraced the idea that public education matters, the children matter, the teachers matter, today is a day full of good news."

Teachers returned to school on January 23, many with the confidence that their voices mattered, their concerns were heard and the impact of their actions will have a positive effect on teachers and students alike for years to come.

## **TMZ**

### **L.A. MAYOR ERIC GARCETTIScrew the Doubters ...L.A. HAS BEST SPORTS TEAMS IN U.S.!!!**

L.A. Mayor and likely Presidential candidate **Eric Garcetti** is promising a party for the ages if the L.A. Rams win the Super Bowl.

We got Garcetti, who was on his way to Washington D.C. where he's the keynote speaker at the United States Conference of Mayors, and he was pumped up about the Rams as any fan in the City of Angels.

Garcetti, who was a key player in the negotiations that ended the L.A. teachers strike, is likely going to throw his hat in the

2020 ring, and soon.

Hizzoner was not shy about his contempt for anyone who says L.A. is not a sports town. Garcetti presents his evidence on why L.A. is the BEST sports town in the U.S. of A.

### **City News Service**

#### **Garcetti Heads to Washington D.C. for U.S. Conference of Mayors**

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is heading to Washington, D.C., for the three-day U.S. Conference of Mayors' 87th Winter Meeting at the Capital Hilton Hotel, but he slightly delayed his departure to visit students heading back to class following the teachers' strike.

Garcetti was expected to among those giving remarks Wednesday during the conference's opening luncheon, but he opted to skip that appearance and take a later flight out of Los Angeles, according to his office.

Garcetti, who helped broker an end to the teachers' strike, spent Wednesday morning with some students on their first day back in the classroom.

Columbia, South Carolina Mayor Steve Benjamin, the president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D- San Francisco, are both expected to speak at the opening luncheon.

On Thursday, Garcetti is expected to moderate a discussion titled "Assuring a Full and Fair 2020 Census and Inclusive Immigration Policies," as he is chair of the Latino Alliance of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Santa Monica Mayor Gleen Davis will speak Thursday on "Navigating Cities Through the E-Scooter Revolution" as part of a segment on new transportation technologies and opportunities.

Other scheduled speakers include Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, gun control advocate David Hogg and four possible Democratic presidential candidates, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Sens. Cory Booker, D- New Jersey, and Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, and former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper.

About 250 mayors of cities with populations of 30,000 or more are set to attend the meeting, which will also include sessions on the economy, veterans and renewable energy.

In addition to Garcetti, Garcia and Davis, the mayors from Los Angeles and Orange counties registered for the meeting are Jeffrey Koji Maloney (Alhambra); Harry Sidhu (Anaheim); Dr. Julian A. Gold (Beverly Hills); Thomas Aujero Small (Culver City); Stacey Armato (Hermosa Beach); Donald P. Wagner (Irvine); John Mark Jennings (Laguna Niguel); Peter Chan (Monterey Park); Diane B. Dixon (Newport Beach); Steven Ly (Rosemead); Patrick J. Furey (Torrance); and Tara Campbell (Yorba Linda).

### **La Opinion**

#### **Recounting a human drama, the homeless**

By: Jorge Luis Macias

Ryan Coughran and his wife Priscilla know first-hand the importance of having all the people living in distress counted. Jared, his youngest son who suffers from autism, was barely 18 months old when they were literally forced to leave the apartment where they lived, in Pacoima.

In September of 2016, Ryan had just quit his job as a trailero to dedicate full time at home to the care of his son, while she worked.

"We paid \$ 1,400 a month for rent and then we could not pay a \$ 200 rent increase for the apartment," said Ryan, 32. "That knocked us to the ground."

Ironically, Priscilla - who worked in a health clinic for the homeless - ended up living on the street.

"We lived in the car and from motel to motel," she recalls, almost on the verge of crying. "It was six very difficult months."

Ryan, the son of a Mexican biological father, but who carries his foster father's last name, told La Opinión that he was the victim of a violent parent, from whom he fled because of physical violence.

"I lived in the streets of Guadalajara, and when I came [to the United States] I also did not have a home for three or four years," recalled this man who got up from the problem. "The important thing to get ahead was to have patience; Therefore, I advise everyone that if it is necessary to ask for help, it must be done, because if one does not speak, God does not listen to him. "

## *Volunteers*

Ryan and Priscilla went out on Tuesday night to listen to those who - like them - need help. They joined thousands of volunteers who took to the streets of the city and the county of Los Angeles to account for the homeless people who live and spend the night in the open, in campaign homes, under bridges or riverbanks.

"We found four tents and we estimated that there would be 6 to 7 people inside," said Blanca Rodgers, a provider of household services at LA Family Housing, who made the trip along with Cristina Carrillo and Sata Brown, through nearby alleys, to Vanowen Street, in North Hollywood. "My job is to find the homeless and find a place to live."

Rodgers said that, in three months of work with LA Family Housing, he has helped some 35 people.

However, in this organization, one of the largest that provide comprehensive services to the homeless, every year it serves almost 7,300 people who are emerging from helplessness and poverty.

## *Humanitarian crisis; numbers down*

This annual count is considered the largest in the nation, because Los Angeles has the dubious reputation of being considered "the capital of the homeless" with more than 53,000 people homeless

The three-day count that concludes this Thursday is a critical step taken by the city, county, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and LA Family Housing authorities to help guide the programs and services where they are most needed.

"We have to resolve what is described as a humanitarian crisis," said Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County Supervisor. "The information that is collected matters to have an updated idea of the dynamics and reality [of the number of homeless people]; every man and woman deserves to have dignity and we must restore their dignity."

Earlier, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** was smiling when he announced the end of the LAUSD teachers' strike and indicated that "the lack of housing is like public education, something that for a long time we have not dedicated resources, love or attention to. ; if you're not frustrated [by the lack of housing for thousands of people] then you do not have a heart."

This year, the efforts involve more than 8,000 volunteers who will travel to 149 sites to count the homeless, no matter where they live.

In 2018, for the first time in four years, the results of the count showed that the number of people who experienced the lack of a place they could call home decreased by 4%, to a total of approximately 53,000, thanks to the combination of investment in accessible housing with funds from Measure H and the HHH Proposition, in addition to other initiatives. Since July 2017, the county has also provided temporary housing to nearly 10,000 individuals.

But, due to unprecedented levels of investment, Los Angeles County is in the process of achieving the goal of Measure H to provide permanent housing to 45,000 families and individuals by 2022.

Since July 2017, the county has assisted 10,000 individuals with a permanent home and nearly 18,000 people had access to support, crisis and temporary shelter services.

Meanwhile, since the approval of the voters of Proposition HHH, November 2016, the city of Los Angeles has made significant progress with the construction of 10,000 units of supportive housing.

In the city, development projects have grown to 78, for a total of 5,104 units, of which 3,619 are supportive housing.

"All I need is an accessible place to live," said Lawton Arnold, a 45-year-old homeless from Georgia who has lived in the streets for three years. "Here, in Los Angeles, with what you pay for a one-bedroom apartment, you can live there in a three-bedroom house."

Arnold was found by La Opinión near a homeless camp on Lankershim Boulevard in North Hollywood.

"I do not want to live in the streets," he added. "If someone gives me a job, I can work as a cook in a fast food place."

In the fight against homelessness in the 6th district it represents, Councilwoman Angelina Nury Martínez said that work is being done on apartment projects such as Casa del Sol, which will have 44 supportive housing units for the elderly; Angel Project in North Hills; Arminta Square and the Senior Veterans Apartments project in Sun Valley (SVSV), which after completion will be opened in September of this year and will provide 96 permanent supportive housing units and will house homeless and chronically homeless disabled veterans.

## LA Taco

### City Hall intrigue: Garcetti appointee resigns after being named in FBI corruption probe

By: Philip Iglauder

Joel Jacinto, a commissioner on the five-member Board of Public Works, resigned last week from one of the plushiest seats on the city government's appointed civilian boards after his name came up in an FBI warrant looking into alleged money laundering, bribery, and kickbacks involving Councilman Jose Huizar.

Jacinto and his wife, Ave Jacinto, were among a slew of people named in the warrant, which was filed in federal court in November. The warrant said agents were seeking evidence related to an investigation into an array of potential crimes possibly involving a collection of City Hall's top people.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti** nominated Jacinto to the Board of Public works in July 2015. The mayor last week sought to distance himself from the inquiry, saying during a press conference – ostensibly about the start of the teachers strike – that he should not be held accountable for everything that people do inside his administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff," the mayor said. "But I do take my responsibility seriously."

Mayor Garcetti did not comment on Jacinto's resignation.

Thomas M. Brown, Jacinto's lawyer, said he submitted his resignation to avoid becoming a distraction for his department. "If contacted by any federal agency, he willfully and voluntarily cooperate as a witness against any individuals within city government," Brown said. "He hopes that he will be able to return to his position as commissioner in the near future after any distraction related to his willingness to serve as a witness is completed."

At the time of his appointment in 2015, Garcetti said: "With his extensive experience working with youth, families, businesses, and communities, Joel is well equipped to make sure City Hall is working efficiently and helping to improve life for Angelenos."

Prior to his city employment, Jacinto worked as a global sales coordinator for FRHI Hotels and Resorts, according to paperwork he submitted when he joined the public works board.

A significant figure in the city's Filipino community, Jacinto also worked previously as executive director of the Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, a nonprofit group based in Historic Filipinotown that focuses on economic and community development.

Board members oversee such issues as street repairs, trash pickup and the city's sewer system, earning a salary of more than \$160,000 annually.

The federal search warrant also named Councilman Jose Huizar, formerly chair of the Planning Land Use and Management committee, which oversees development in the city. The FBI raided Huizar's home and offices on Nov. 7.

Other City Hall insiders named in the search warrant include Councilman Curren Price, who represents parts of Downtown and of South Los Angeles, and Deron Williams, chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson.

After news of the warrant went public, he told reporters he was not aware that he had been mentioned in a search warrant. He added that his wife is an independent contractor, but did not elaborate on that. While serving with Public Works, Jacinto was assigned to work with the city's Bureau of Engineering, which reviews permits that are provided to companies that seek to carve into streets and sidewalks as part of their construction projects.

He was in regular contact with Raymond Chan, then at Building and Safety, and scheduled several meetings with real estate developers or about development, according to a report by the Los Angeles Times.

#### *Garcetti's Ambitions*

The expansive investigation could not come at a worse time for the mayor. Garcetti has invested hundreds of days traveling outside of California to key Democratic primary states Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina for more than a year. He is weighing a run for president in 2020.

If he does try for the White House, he would likely face questions about the corruption probe on any campaign trail. Although, the mayor did work up some good will from his role in helping to resolve the six-day teachers strike this week.

Agents also served a warrant on Google back in July, seeking information from a private email account for Raymond

Chan, former deputy mayor for economic development in 2016 and 2017 under Garcetti. From 1987, Chan had worked his up at the city's Department of Building and Safety. Garcetti had promoted him as the department's top executive before he appointed him to deputy mayor.

It is important to note that the federal warrant does list specific evidence of criminal activity or even wrong doing by any of the people named in the document. The warrant also doesn't indicate there is any evidence discovered in Chan's email account.

## **LA Times**

### **With Jan Perry's entrance, race to replace Supervisor Ridley-Thomas could be contentious**

By: Matt Stiles and Dave Zahniser

Another experienced local politician, former Los Angeles City Council member Jan Perry, is making an early leap into the race to succeed term-limited county Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas next year.

Perry announced Tuesday that she's joining a field that already includes her one-time City Hall rival, Herb Wesson, and first-time candidate Sharis Rhodes to represent the 2nd Supervisorial District in South Los Angeles, which encompasses roughly 2 million residents.

A former appointee of Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, Perry said that, if elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, she would focus on homelessness and on building new infrastructure to create jobs and spur community development.

"The county's most important function is to ensure that services it provides are available in a manner that's as accessible and effective as possible," she said. "I have a well-documented, well-developed portfolio of" doing that.

Ridley-Thomas, in turn, is running for Wesson's council seat next year. A former councilman himself, he has sent invitations to a Super Bowl-themed campaign fundraiser planned next month, according to city records.

Given their experience and base of support in South L.A., both Perry and Wesson — who, as City Council president, represents a district stretching from Koreatown to Leimert Park — are likely to be formidable candidates to succeed Ridley-Thomas in the primary election next year.

The two political veterans, along with Rhodes, are black — and about half the county's black population lives in the supervisorial district, which stretches from Culver City to Carson.

Wesson, who has been council president since 2012, entered the race last month. A highly influential figure, he rivals Garcetti in his ability to shape policy and legislation at City Hall.

Wesson also could face questions during the campaign about an ongoing corruption investigation at City Hall. A federal search warrant filed in the probe said agents were seeking evidence related to an investigation of an array of potential crimes, including bribery and extortion, and named several political figures, including Deron Williams, Wesson's chief of staff.

Perry moved into Ladera Heights after the holiday season and had previously lived outside the district in downtown. She is the executive director of the Infrastructure Funding Alliance and said that, during her time at City Hall, she secured funds for affordable housing and worked to improve conditions in skid row.

Perry served on the City Council from 2001 to 2013. During her final years on the council, she waged an unsuccessful run for mayor and endorsed Garcetti for mayor in a 2013 runoff. He appointed her to lead the city's Economic and Workforce Development Department a few months later.

Wesson and Perry have a shared political history from their time serving together on the City Council, raising the prospect of a contentious race.

During her last few years on the council, Perry was at odds with Wesson over his handling of the city's redistricting process, which led to a major redesign of the boundaries of Perry's council district.

And as the redistricting process was getting started, Perry and a close ally, Councilman Bernard C. Parks, did not show up for a vote, in which Wesson became the City Council's first black president. Weeks later, Wesson removed Parks and Perry from two key committees.

The third, lesser-known candidate, Rhodes, is a Los Angeles High School graduate who spent time in foster care during her childhood. The mother of a 3-year-old son, Rhodes, 32, said she is running to be a voice for younger constituents and, if elected, hopes to draw on her experience as a music teacher for at-risk youths to help constituents.

"I'm going up against some big, heavy names. But at the same time, their political histories have not done our community justice," said Rhodes, who is studying community planning and economic development at Los Angeles Trade Technical College.

The election is set for March 2020, with a potential runoff election in November 2020.

## CNBC

### **Every Democrat wants Barack Obama's 2020 endorsement – but Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are likely the top contenders to get it**

By: Jeff Daniels

A huge question of the 2020 campaign is who former President Barack Obama will endorse.

A primary field including both Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., and former Vice President Joe Biden could make the choice especially tricky since they would likely be the top contenders for his backing.

Harris, a first-term senator who also served as California's attorney general, declared her candidacy for president Monday, while Biden, himself a longtime former senator, has yet to decide whether to launch a campaign.

Harris and Biden have had long and fruitful relationships with Obama. The former two-term president would arguably end up the biggest supporter of a Biden 2020 run, but Obama also counts Harris as a loyal ally. Harris was San Francisco district attorney when she threw her support behind Obama's presidential run in early 2007 — a time when many other elected politicians in the nation's most populous state backed then-front-runner Hillary Clinton.

With other Obama political allies likely to enter the 2020 presidential race, though, many Democratic strategists believe the former president won't rush into endorsing anyone.

"Smart people and smart money — donors — are going to let this thing play out a little bit to see who is real and then decide where they want to push all their eggs or their chips into that candidate," said Andrew Acosta, a California-based Democratic political strategist.

Other veteran Democrats, including some who worked on Obama campaigns, believe the former president won't endorse a particular 2020 contender until the primary process is further along. Obama held secret meetings with Biden, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and at least seven other presidential hopefuls last year, Politico reported in June.

An Obama spokesman didn't respond to a request for comment for this story. CNBC also reached out to the Harris campaign.

Harris has been considering the presidential run for some time and has joined a growing field that already includes fellow Sens. Warren and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York.

Democrat Julian Castro, a former mayor of San Antonio who served as Obama's secretary of Housing and Urban Development, also announced he's running. Among other declared Democratic candidates are Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii and John Delaney, a former congressman from Maryland. Pete Buttigieg, Democratic mayor of South Bend, Indiana, is officially exploring a run, too.

In all, there could be 20 or more Democratic presidential hopefuls entering the 2020 campaign, according to political strategists interviewed for this story.

Former 2016 presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. is said to be considering another run. Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., over the weekend visited the South and also is said to be close to announcing a decision. Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** made a swing through Iowa last year and is said to be considering a run, too, as is billionaire former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg. Democratic rising star Beto O'Rourke of Texas, who narrowly lost to Republican Ted Cruz in last year's Senate race, is also weighing whether he should jump into the campaign.

#### *Biden is the early favorite*

Biden officially remains undecided about whether he will run. But polls show him as the top preference of Democratic voters, ahead of Sanders.

"Obama has a lot of loyalty to Biden, they are very close," said Robert Shrum, director of the University of Southern California's Dornsife's Center for the Political Future and a former Democratic political operative.

According to Shrum, who served on multiple presidential campaigns, "Obama could obviously have a very large impact on this process if he wanted to, but I don't know whether he will."



Shrum recalled how Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts had a big role in the Democratic presidential race in early 2008 when he formally endorsed Obama right in the middle of primaries.

Meantime, Harris plans to have campaign headquarters in Baltimore and a second office in Oakland, California, where she grew up.

Even before she announced her presidential run, Harris generated headlines for her tough questioning of several Trump administration appointees. The former prosecutor has been seen as a rising star in the Democratic Party and is the daughter of immigrants from India and Jamaica.

She became one of Obama's California campaign chairs in the 2008 presidential contest and gained a reputation as a strong fundraiser.

"She always got a strong reception from people when she spoke," said Kim Mack, a former regional field organizer in California for the Obama 2008 presidential campaign. Mack isn't currently associated with the Harris campaign.

If Biden decides to join the 2020 race, Mack believes it could dim the chances for Harris to win the Democratic presidential nomination. She said there's a chance Harris could end up as a vice presidential pick, too.

"I really feel like it will be Biden-Harris," she said. "And in order for that to be a successful ticket, she needs to raise her visibility across the country."

#### *Harris seeks edge with an earlier California primary*

Harris is scheduled to speak on Friday at an event at the South Carolina State Fairgrounds in Columbia. The Palmetto State could prove crucial for her candidacy as it is scheduled to be one of the first states to have its primary in February 2020 and follow New Hampshire.

In addition, the Iowa caucuses take place in early February 2020 and will be followed by the Nevada caucus later that month.

California's role in the Democratic nomination is seen as more important in 2020. The state's primary will be held along several other state primaries on Super Tuesday — March 3, 2020 — instead of its usual June spot, which is when the primary season traditionally starts to wrap up.

"California has been irrelevant for the most part in the Democratic process since 1972 when it was decisive," Shrum said.

The veteran political watcher was quick to add, though, that California moving up the primary still doesn't make Iowa and New Hampshire less important, and arguably makes them more important. He said that's because those early states will help determine "who's winnowed in, who is seen as a viable candidate."

Also, Shrum said Harris may have the advantage of name recognition in her home state, but that doesn't mean she's guaranteed to win California.

"I don't agree with the idea that somehow or another people would just vote for someone because they were from California, if they had not established their viability in the earlier part of the process," Shrum said. He said online fundraising and social media strategies as well as whether a message resonates with a wide variety of people are among many factors that will help determine the candidates that do well.

Shrum recalled that former California Gov. Jerry Brown came in third place in the 1980 Democratic presidential primary in California, trailing Ted Kennedy and President Jimmy Carter. To be fair, he said Brown ran toward the end of his first stint as governor when he "wasn't all that popular."

"People don't throw away their votes, and I think she [Harris] understands this. That's why she's talking about having a headquarters in the East and not just the West," Shrum said. "And I would expect to see her compete vigorously in the early states."

#### **Courthouse News Service**

#### **California Urged to Build More Housing to Fight Homelessness Crisis**

By: Nick Cahill

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CN) – Lurking beneath California's indisputable spoils – the world's fifth largest economy, a diverse population and overall spectacular weather – is a growing humanitarian crisis that continues to baffle most local and state politicians. The calamity is hardly unique to the Golden State, but over the last decade under a predominantly



liberal Legislature, the number of Californians living on the street has grown while the national homelessness rate has dropped.

With new Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom proposing to open up the vault to fund new homeless shelters and drive home construction, lawmakers sought advice on how to best spend the latest batch of taxpayer dollars on the state's less fortunate.

"We're here because over the years, between federal government, state government and local governments, we have spent billions of dollars through many, many different policies and programs attempting to address homelessness – and yet homelessness not only continues, it's intensifying," said Assemblyman David Chiu Wednesday during a homelessness brainstorming session.

Like Newsom, Chiu is a Democrat from San Francisco. He chairs the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee and on Wednesday summoned a group of advocates and experts to the state Capitol. He and several other lawmakers spent over three hours talking about crafting a better response to what Chiu calls California's "moral crisis."

On a national level, homelessness levels have decreased by 13 percent since 2010 while California's homeless population has spiked by 9 percent. California not only has the most homeless people of any state, 69 percent of those without places to live are unsheltered.

"They live outside in places not meant for human habitation," said Cynthia Nagendra, a director with the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Nagendra testified cities with recent success in cutting homelessness rates have had an "intense focus on housing people as quickly as possible," and that while temporary shelters are necessary, cities must provide ways for people to gain access to their own homes.

A Brooklyn Law School graduate, Nagendra added the key elements to curing homelessness include accurate homelessness data, rent subsidies, housing development funding and less zoning red tape at the local and state levels.

In his first budget proposal earlier this month, Newsom called for \$500 million in one-time spending for local governments to build homeless shelters and expedited environmental reviews for new shelters. He wants the state to consider building emergency shelters on unused state land and says he will soon appoint the state's first-ever homelessness czar.

Similar to Newsom's idea, earlier this week a trio of Assembly members introduced a bipartisan bill that would allow the Department of Transportation to lease properties to local municipalities for new emergency shelters, food pantries and parks at a cost of \$1 per month.

But some lawmakers doubt spending more will have a clear effect on the crisis.

Assemblyman Steven Choi, R-Irvine, said he's frustrated with the lack of progress and is worried that counties and cities are misusing the funds doled out by the Legislature.

"Here in Sacramento, we talk about [homelessness and housing shortages] almost daily when we meet in committees; we can't even solve the capital city's homelessness situation," Choi said during the housing and human services joint meeting. "Why can't we create or try different methods?"

The state's ordeal is perhaps no more apparent than in its largest city of Los Angeles, where an estimated 52,000 people were homeless in 2018. But the total was actually a bit of good news for the city since it marked a decrease for the first time in four years.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** has made ending homelessness one of his top priorities and under his watch, the City Council and voters have raised property taxes and taken out expansive bonds for housing the homeless population.

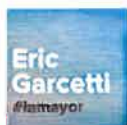
Christina Miller, deputy mayor of Los Angeles' homelessness initiatives, told the committee members in Sacramento that "nothing deserves more urgency than solving" the crisis. She says the city and county are committed to removing development barriers, such as parking and zoning requirements, and dedicating parcels of city-owned land for new housing.

"In LA we will persist until every Angeleno on the street today has a safe, warm place to call home," Miller testified.

Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva of Orange County said that if other cities don't begin to follow Los Angeles' lead and take the crisis seriously, the state will have to play a bigger role.

"We cannot continue to say no [to new housing] when every excuse has run out," Quirk-Silva said of cities hesitant to

build shelters and affordable homes. "We have to build housing. If we don't build housing, we are not going to be able to address this issue."



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Thu, Jan 24, 2019 at 7:29 AM

[POLITICO: Garcetti may spin teachers strike deal into 2020 bid](#)

## Politico

### Garcetti may spin teachers strike deal into 2020 bid

By: Carla Marinucci

**SAN FRANCISCO** — If Eric Garcetti decides to run for president, voters should expect to hear a lot about the Los Angeles teachers strike.

Garcetti, the 47-year-old mayor of Los Angeles, helped negotiate a deal to end a six-day strike of teachers in the nation's second-largest school district, something his advisers and supporters say might distinguish him from an increasingly crowded Democratic presidential field.

"If Garcetti has his eye on the White House, this is definitely one more piece of information for voters to understand" the leadership potential of a big city mayor, said veteran Democratic strategist Nathan Ballard, who served as communications adviser to then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, now California's new governor.

Garcetti "didn't have to get involved in the way that he did, acting as a mediator and locking the two sides in a room until they got a deal done," argues Ballard, who has also advised Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf. "A lot of folks will be looking at that and saying, 'I wish that would happen in Washington D.C. ... that a grown-up would settle the government shutdown.'"

The Los Angeles Democrat arrives Thursday in the nation's capital for the start of the U.S. Conference of Mayors winter meeting, hitting a city that will be in its second month of a government shutdown. The annual event is a chance for mayors to bask in the spotlight of the national news media and try out policy platforms on a larger stage. Garcetti's team says he will be talking infrastructure issues with congressional leaders and fellow mayors at the conference — with an aim to boost such investment nationwide.

Though most political odds makers agree the chances of a U.S. mayor making it to the White House are exceedingly small, Garcetti has made no secret of his political ambitions and has traveled repeatedly to Iowa and early contest states in the past months. The moves, and the mayor's own past statements that he would make a decision by the end of 2018, fueled widespread perceptions he was preparing to enter the 2020 race — just as tens of thousands of teachers decided to walk out last week.

Rick Jacobs, a longtime senior adviser to Garcetti, contends that the teachers strike is putting Garcetti into the national spotlight at a time when Americans are hungering for leadership.

"You have a mayor who is a direct contrast to what is going on in Washington," said Jacobs, who also serves as CEO of Accelerator for America, a nonprofit aimed at boosting local government impact in areas like infrastructure and job creation. "Versus what happened" to end the strike in the nation's second largest school district, where "the mayor very steadily, patiently and quietly worked to get a solution to a teachers strike that was widely supported by parents and teachers and people in Los Angeles," Jacobs said.

News of the settlement could allow Garcetti an opportunity to introduce himself — and his distinct profile — to voters on a much bigger stage.

"Politics is a matter of luck and timing — and this is good luck for Eric Garcetti, good political luck," said political analyst Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, a senior fellow at the University of Southern California Price School of Public Policy. "The perception is Garcetti exerted leadership — and that's a better perception than the way that the president, or even Nancy Pelosi

and Chuck Schumer, are being perceived" as the partial government shutdown drags on.

The son of former Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti, Eric Garcetti is the first Jewish mayor of Los Angeles and the city's youngest mayor in history. Following in the footsteps of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who made an unsuccessful run for governor, Garcetti also proudly touts his Mexican-American roots — his grandfather was from Chihuahua, Mexico, and he speaks fluent Spanish — as well as being the great-grandson of Italian immigrants.

An accomplished jazz pianist and composer, Garcetti has also been a relentless booster of his city's culture and entertainment base and has amassed a robust donor base in Hollywood.

And, Bebitch Jeffe notes, should Garcetti decide to take the plunge, his mayoral term doesn't expire until 2022 — thanks to legislation that reorganized the local elections schedule — meaning "there's no real downside" to the mayor taking a chance on a 2020 White House run.

But even with an interesting lineage, some powerful backers, and the resolution of the teacher's strike, the chief executive of the nation's second largest city would still face a considerable political and geographic challenge getting to the White House.

Darry Sragow, publisher of the California Target Book — a non-partisan election resource guide — notes that Garcetti's challenge is that "he's the mayor of a city that is viewed by most of the country as not being like them. And he is from California, a place that is generally viewed with disdain in the parts of the country that will decide the outcome of the 2020 election."

While Sragow says the strike settlement is "a feather in his cap," he says it is still a long way from front-runner status in what will be a crowded Democratic White House race.

"Running for president is a long and very tough process. Did [Garcetti] have a good day? Yes. Can he talk about this to his own advantage? Yes," said Sragow. "But this is just one piece ... this is a just one brick in the wall."

And with Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) formally in the race, a "Draft Beto" movement springing up in California to boost former Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D-Texas), and at least one other Californian — Rep. Eric Swalwell — appearing poised to get in, Garcetti supporters say he should seize the window and make his move soon.

The grassroots @DraftGarcetti movement of impassioned activists was founded in 2017 and once boasted nearly 30,000 Twitter followers and dozens of dedicated activists across several states. The group recently officially disbanded, with a few former Garcetti backers — including some who say they donated hundreds of hours to his cause — now drifting away to other Democrats in the race.

"I found him just immensely appealing, and I still do," said Chris Amato, a Democratic political activist from the Bronx, who helped launched dozens of @DraftGarcetti Twitter accounts — including one in every state.

Amato acknowledges the grassroots social media movement on Twitter backing Garcetti collapsed and says it didn't help that Twitter — which last year tried to clean up "bot" or phony accounts — in November deleted all the group's accounts. (Twitter executives, reached by POLITICO for comment, declined to comment on the status of individual accounts. But a spokesperson said that Twitter is flagged when multiple accounts are created by one person or group and appear to be tweeting the exact same messages — what the company views as the political equivalent of spam.)

In week in which another mayor — South Bend, Indiana's Pete Buttigieg — declared his White House intentions, Ballard said Garcetti's resume may also appeal to voters who view mayors as public figures who actually "get stuff done."

"That's where Garcetti, and Gavin Newsom and the [Michael] Bloombergs of the world who have run big cities may actually have better job qualifications," he said.

On Thu, Jan 24, 2019 at 7:27 AM Cate Hurley <[cate.hurley@lacity.org](mailto:cate.hurley@lacity.org)> wrote:

**Mayor Eric Garcetti**

[ASSOCIATED PRESS / NYT: With Strike Deal, Garcetti Looks Again Toward 2020 Run](#)

[LA TIMES: How L.A. teachers scored a decisive political victory with strike](#)

[LAIST: How Mayor Eric Garcetti And A 'Leap Of Faith' Helped End LA's Teachers Strike](#)

[NPR: After Tentative Deal, Teachers Return To Los Angeles Classrooms \(AUDIO + TRANSCRIPT\)](#)

[NPR: News Brief: LA Teachers, Government Shutdown And Its Impact On FBI \(AUDIO + TRANSCRIPT\)](#)

[KCRW: Press Play: LAUSD teachers strike ends \(AUDIO ONLY\)](#)

[LA DAILY NEWS: A 9-day LAUSD teacher strike took a financial toll. Here are some numbers](#)

[CBS LOS ANGELES: 6-Day Teachers Strike Cost LAUSD \\$151 Million](#)

[LA SCHOOL REPORT: The teacher strike is over. Now parents who felt ignored want to be included as LAUSD and UTLA move forward with their new agreement](#)

[USA TODAY: Los Angeles teacher: Our strike was worth it to help students and improve schools](#)

LA DAILY NEWS: LAUSD teachers return to classrooms on first day back after massive strike  
ABC LOS ANGELES: LAUSD strike: Teachers back in classrooms after voting to approve deal  
LOS FELIZ LEDGER: As Classes Resume, It's a Mixed-Bag of Teacher Reactions to Strike Gains  
WESTSIDE TODAY: Teachers Return to Westside Schools as Strike Ends  
TMZ: L.A. MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI Screw the Doubters ... L.A. HAS BEST SPORTS TEAMS IN U.S.!!!  
CITY NEWS SERVICE: Garcetti Heads to Washington D.C. for U.S. Conference of Mayors  
LA OPINION: Recounting a human drama, helplessness  
LA TACO: City Hall intrigue: Garcetti appointee resigns after being named in FBI corruption probe  
LA TIMES: With Jan Perry's entrance, race to replace Supervisor Ridley-Thomas could be contentious  
CNBC: Every Democrat wants Barack Obama's 2020 endorsement – but Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are likely the top contenders to get it  
COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE: California Urged to Build More Housing to Fight Homelessness Crisis

#### **Associated Press / NYT**

#### **With Strike Deal, Garcetti Looks Again Toward 2020 Run**

LOS ANGELES — After helping broker an end to a teachers strike that marooned more than half a million students, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said Wednesday the deal shows that government is solving problems in Los Angeles while Washington remains hobbled by a lengthy shutdown.

The Democratic mayor, who is considering a 2020 White House run, called the pact a national model that shows how deeply divided factions can find common ground. The teachers union in the nation's second-largest school district ended a walkout Tuesday after winning higher wages and cuts in class sizes.

"All politics in this country seem to be about pulling each other apart. This is what we can get when we pull together," the mayor said in an interview. "I believe Americans do want great schools wherever they are, in the same way that Americans want a Washington that functions and isn't in the longest shutdown in our history."

The strike that began Jan. 14 threatened the mayor's argument that local government is where progress is made in America, while highlighting the risks of launching a presidential campaign from City Hall. No sitting mayor has ever been elected to the White House.

Garcetti suspended consideration of a 2020 candidacy with teachers on the picket lines, but indicated Wednesday a decision was not far off. "Stay tuned," he said.

Garcetti said the resolution of a strike that once seemed insoluble — along with improvements for teachers and students — "shows what kind of leadership we have here. ... Accomplishing things is always better than dividing one another."

Political scientist Jack Pitney said the end of the walkout will free up time Garcetti needs to make a 2020 decision, though it's unlikely to add much luster to his resume. Outside of Southern California "not many people are paying attention," said Pitney, who teaches at Claremont McKenna College.

With the Democratic field growing larger each day, the mayor faces increasing pressure to make a decision because he could fall behind in crucial fundraising. Even on his home turf he would be competing for those dollars with another Californian, Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris, who entered the race on Monday.

If he gets into the race "he needs to establish his unique selling proposition, what sets him apart from the other candidates," Pitney said.

The mayor has no direct authority in the Los Angeles Unified School District, but Garcetti said he was compelled to get involved because success of the schools is directly linked to the success of the city.

His role that began quietly months ago evolved into mediator, note-taker, shuttle diplomat, arm-twister — even therapist, he quipped — between the union and the school administration. He described a bargaining environment that for months was devoid of trust, with each side unwilling to listen to the other.

Even when a deal was close early Tuesday morning, both sides nearly walked out over a long-running dispute over a provision that allows the district to unilaterally increase class size during times of financial strain.

The talks "actually went off the cliff," Garcetti recalled. "The union said 'We're done.'"

With negotiators from both sides packing up at City Hall, Garcetti said he began urging district Superintendent Austin Beutner and union President Alex Caputo-Pearl to give it another chance. The three talked and the disputed language was eventually withdrawn.



"We had a deal," the mayor said.

## LA Times

### How L.A. teachers scored a decisive political victory with strike

By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles is often criticized for its lack of public engagement and low voter turnout, and as a place where neighborhoods have a sense of community but the city overall feels fragmented.

But the nation saw a different side of L.A. when last week's teachers' strike galvanized the city. Thousands of red-clad teachers marched and rallied on the streets, drawing vocal support not just from residents and parents but from politicians and celebrities eager to back their cause.

By keeping a tight message and engaging parents, the United Teachers Los Angeles union and its president, Alex Caputo-Pearl, were able to highlight issues of inequality and L.A.'s struggling school system in a way that supporters hope has lasting significance.

Over the six-day walkout, teachers made the strike less about their salaries than about class sizes, services for children and the future of public education. Many parents in Los Angeles have fled traditional public schools in favor of charter schools, which are expanding rapidly across the city.

The strike may not have hurt the allure of charters to parents frustrated with the Los Angeles Unified School District. But it brought attention to the financial toll that defections are having on the school system and the difficult learning conditions, especially for students from lower-income families, in L.A. Unified.

The union's message was that "public education is rooted in democracy and in the tradition of the school district," said Charles Kerchner, a labor relations historian and professor emeritus at Claremont Graduate University. "They were actively selling this idea to parents, to the public.

"UTLA and Alex handled this brilliantly," he added. "It almost became a movement."

The long-term implications of the strike are unclear. The teachers union remains in an uncertain position, with half the current members of the L.A. Board of Education having been elected with backing from charter advocates. That could change in March with a special election for the board's seventh seat.

Moreover, it's hard to know whether other labor movements would have similar success without the issue of childhood education in the forefront.

Some see the teachers' strike as a larger increase in political engagement that began with the election of President Trump in 2016 and the many protests that came with the blue "resistance" in California. That continued in 2018, when Democrats took several key House seats across the state in areas once considered safely Republican.

"You're having a consecutive number of events where people are in the streets or supporting people in the streets," said Jaime Regalado, professor emeritus of political science at Cal State L.A., adding that there's a "spirit of resistance, a spirit of support" in California in the Trump era.

Time will tell how long this shift will last. Los Angeles has become notorious for its low voter turnout in local elections, which hit an all-time low of about 18% in the 2009 mayor's race and was only 20% when **Eric Garcetti** was reelected.

Union leaders said preliminary counts show the agreement was approved by a large majority, but the contract between L.A. Unified and the teachers union wasn't universally embraced by educators, and UTLA's Facebook page was flooded with complaints Tuesday about the agreement. Some teachers complained it was vague on details and watered down. Also, gains were modest on reducing class sizes compared with what union leaders said publicly.

Still, the union achieved its goal, at least temporarily, of uniting parents, educators and their supporters. Downtown rallies backing educators over the last week followed several other recent marches in Los Angeles focused on gun violence and women's rights.

The strike gained momentum as images of marching teachers spread, but parents also played a key role as they picketed alongside their children's teachers or had their kids stay home.

Hollywood parent Lowell Goodman kept his kids out of school and saw the strike as a protest of the erosion of the middle class in Los Angeles, driven in large measure by rising housing costs.

Parents don't have access to the quality public education that past generations did, said Goodman, who marched alongside his kids' teachers at Valley View Elementary.

"This was a revolt of the middle class," said Goodman, a former communications director for a city union. "Middle-class people in Southern California are fed up."

Still, not everyone knew of the strike, said Maisie Chin, executive director of Community Asset Development Re-defining Education, an independent group that works with parents of L.A. Unified students in South Los Angeles. She saw small numbers of parents and striking teachers in South L.A.

"The unification didn't reach the trenches," Chin said. "It underscored the need to look in places like South L.A. and reexamine how closely parents are aware of the strike and the issues."

The question to ask, she said, is "which parents are being engaged, and were the most marginalized parents being approached? And that mainly means African Americans."

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, raised the issue of inequity when she joined marching students last week in Los Angeles. By seeking smaller class sizes and job protections for teachers, UTLA was "fighting for the schools that all children deserve, not some children deserve," she said.

"Frankly, these are things that every middle-class or rich parent demands of the schools that their kids go to," Weingarten said.

With long-term funding still an issue for L.A. Unified, money could potentially come from passage of a 2020 ballot measure that would change Proposition 13 or from a possible local parcel tax. It remains uncertain whether the public's support for public education will carry over at the polls.

Other labor strikes are on the horizon in cities including Oakland, where the local teachers union is expected next week to vote on a strike.

UTLA's Caputo-Pearl said this week that labor movements across the country should take note of his union's approach. The L.A. strike was about the "broader common good, and not so much about a narrow working contract," he said.

## **LAist**

### **How Mayor Eric Garcetti And A 'Leap Of Faith' Helped End LA's Teachers Strike**

By: Kyle Stokes

On the day Los Angeles Unified School District teachers went on strike, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** suggested resolving the dispute might require a small "leap of faith" by school district officials.

By that, Garcetti meant it might require LAUSD officials to commit to spend more on the contract demands of the teachers union, United Teachers Los Angeles, even if they didn't yet know where the funding would come from.

Two days later, the mayor announced his staff would broker new talks between UTLA and LAUSD at City Hall. Over five days of negotiations — including a 21-hour, all-night session from Monday into Tuesday — the parties hammered out a tentative contract agreement.

Over a three-and-a-half year contract term, LAUSD officials agreed to spend more money to gradually meet several key UTLA demands: reducing class sizes and hiring more support staff. District officials say, though, that the deal will hinge on all three parties — LAUSD, UTLA and the Mayor's Office — finding new streams of funding for the school district.

The cost of the new agreement really ramps up starting in 2021. If the district can't find new sources of revenue by 2020, both LAUSD and city officials have said the deal would likely have to be revisited.

In other words, Garcetti's "leap of faith" is part of that agreement.

On Wednesday morning, after Garcetti read to students in a transitional kindergarten class at Elysian Heights Elementary, KPCC/LAist sat down with Garcetti to discuss the deal.

KPCC/LAist has condensed the mayor's answers below, editing for length and clarity. Quote from this readout with caution.

*KPCC/LAist: Before the strike, there was a question of whether you were going to get involved in the negotiations. You offered to host the talks at City Hall, but the union and the district declined at first. What was the turning point that*

wound up putting you and your team in the middle?

GARCETTI: I was never "rejected." I think that's been misreported. I've been speaking to the parties involved since August, so when the strike happened, I encouraged them to go to the table we'd already offered — a neutral space if ever they needed mediation. I was very surprised how little communication was going on not only between the principle players, but one level down from that. We worked really hard talking to school board members, the superintendent and union leaders to say, "What can we do to help move this along?" It seemed very clear to me that that there was such frustration on both sides.

*KPCC/LAist: Part of the rift between the union and the district had to do with how much money LAUSD does or doesn't have. Do you think LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner was operating with the best motives? Do you think he's right that there's a problem with the district finances, and that there are vital questions about sustainability that need to be taken seriously?*

GARCETTI: Oh, I think it's his job to be stressed out about finances just as it is for me as mayor, or the governor, or any chief executive needs to make sure they aren't overpromising. But as we began to dig into the finances, we realized that there was probably some common space where the district could stretch enough. The superintendent and the union have said, in the future, we're going to probably need to go to the ballot and ask people if they want classes with 45 students in them. I tried to convince both sides to act responsibly but aggressively. In other words, this is not the time to be conservative. This is the time to look at those reserves, but not recklessly.

*KPCC/LAist: After the negotiations transitioned over to City Hall, talks appeared to have turned toward a three-year contract, as opposed to arguing over what will happen in the next 18 months. How did that happen?*

GARCETTI: I think it became clear that a lot of what we wanted couldn't be done in the life of the contract. This was really about the classroom size. Even if you snap your fingers and had all the money in the world, it takes time to hire teachers. Other things take time, too. There's a nurse shortage in this country. We have to make sure we have librarians and counselors. And green spaces.

Making an agreement for the next three years was something that the union was interested in doing. The district was, I think, initially curious about whether that could be achieved. But we found that we could come up with a legally binding way forward — a longer-term contract where nobody will feel like the rug has been pulled out from underneath them.

*KPCC/LAist: I'm keying in on the three-year piece as a sort of turning point in the talks, but was there some other thing that really got things rolling downhill?*

GARCETTI: No. I think just getting together face-to-face with a neutral party helped. They had gotten together twice already, but were in many ways still talking past each other. So when my team got involved, both Superintendent Austin Beutner and Alex Caputo-Pearl, the head of the union, sat down every day before each meeting, before the parties and the bargaining teams would get together. And at the very beginning, I said, "I just asked you to abide some rules: respect confidentiality; no surprises; stay positive — and no matter how bad things get, we are going to finish this. Go breathe, go event, yell at me if you need to, but get back to the table."

*KPCC/LAist: There were some long sessions. How did everyone endure?*

GARCETTI: We had huge make-your-own taco platters. There was a lot of Sun Chips, a lot of coffee. My negotiating practice was to start with really good food and big rooms. And then every day the room would get smaller and the food would get worse. So by the end, you're in a closet with really crappy pizza. Interestingly enough, I might have to change that. Because I think we did the opposite. As things got better. The food got better. And it became kind of a culinary reward for progress.

*KPCC/LAist: You've said that these are people that are going to walk away and have a beer together. Was it pretty tense in the room?*

GARCETTI: I don't think people became best friends overnight. But I think there was absolute trust that was developed among people. I told everyone, "If you can create a relationship with each other, that gives me a lot of encouragement that we should all spend our political capital, our treasure, our talent in making this district better." There were human moments.

*KPCC/LAist: This is a deal that requires more funding in the future. How will that look? Is a parcel tax going to be on the table? Is building the airplane while attempting to fly it kind of dangerous?*

GARCETTI: No, I think it's absolutely necessary, because it's stayed grounded for too long, nobody's taken off at all. You have to be willing to fly. I do think we'll need state help. We saw it in the governor's budget, and I hope it continues in future budgets. And I think we will. It is substantial. But no, it's not enough. That's why I think a state measure would

help us get there and a local measure should be coming.

I will consider supporting either an initiative that will go to operations and allow us to continue the momentum of reducing class size or help us to build out the schools and create green spaces and really great learning environments. So much of this always comes down to dollars and policies that we forget what's it like for a kid that's in a class with 42 students in a bungalow. That isn't acceptable in our town. We need to take it from okay to good and from good to great.

*KPCC/LAist: Gotta ask — can you run for president now?*

GARCETTI: This was not about me. This week was all about our children. This was all about a school district. You know, somebody said, I should probably go to Washington, D.C. and work on the shutdown next. I'm actually headed there in a couple hours

*KPCC/LAist: Just for a conference though, right?*

GARCETTI: Just for the Conference of Mayors. But I'm going to share this story with them, because I hope it inspires people nationally — that this wasn't just about L.A., it's a good model for our national leaders too.

*KPCC/LAist: There's not a podium there with an American flag behind it and a crowd waiting?*

GARCETTI: No, there's no surprise in Washington, just a mayor doing his work.

**NPR**

### **After Tentative Deal, Teachers Return To Los Angeles Classrooms**

DAVID GREENE, HOST: The big news here around Los Angeles this morning - tens of thousands of public school teachers from the LA Unified School District, the nation's second-biggest, are heading back to the classroom. A six-day strike ended last night after a deal between the union and school officials was ratified. This deal includes a pay hike for teachers, also a commitment to reduce class size, and it will bring in more school nurses. This is elementary school teacher Jennifer Liebe-Zelazny.

JENNIFER LIEBE-ZELAZNY: I am actually pretty excited about our new, tentative agreement. Nobody got everything, but everybody got something.

GREENE: And then this is teacher Jesenia Chavez. She said that she felt that the community had really rallied around the teachers.

JESENIA CHAVEZ: We reached a place where people respect us and people care about us. And it's really - I feel like a rock star, like, with my red T-shirt. And I feel like I'm appreciated and valued by my city. And I completely want to say thank you 100 percent to everyone who supported us.

GREENE: All right. Kyle Stokes covers education for member station KPCC, and he's with me in our studios at NPR West. Good morning, Kyle.

KYLE STOKES, BYLINE: Morning, David.

GREENE: All right. So the strike you've been covering for, like, almost a week now is over.

STOKES: Yes.

GREENE: Tell us what's in this deal that brought the two sides together.

STOKES: Well, so, first of all, the teachers are going to get a raise. They had been - the district had been offering a 6 percent raise for months, and the teachers have accepted that. The district also has offered to raise staffing levels of nurses, counselors and librarians as the union had been looking for for a long time. So, for instance, over the next two or three years, the district is going to roll out enough school nurses to make sure that every Los Angeles Unified School has a school nurse on campus five days week, which isn't the case right now...

GREENE: Because there were some days when there was no nurse at all - right? - at some of those schools.

STOKES: Some days when there's no nurse at all or one or two days a week. But the big breakthrough here, David, is class sizes. Not only has the district agreed to try and hit some very ambitious targets for reducing class sizes in Los Angeles over the next three years, the district also gave up this power that it had under the old contract to essentially raise class sizes almost whenever it wants. Class size reduction is very expensive, and the district felt like it needed flexibility, thus this provision in the old contract, kind of a safety valve that would let them raise class sizes in order to



save money. They gave that up. That's a big win for the union.

GREENE: OK. So the teachers got a lot of what they were asking for.

STOKES: A lot of what they were asking for, but it's going to have to be spread out over three years, so that's sort of the compromise there.

GREENE: The school district had been saying they just didn't have the money for some of this stuff. Is there a concern about coming up with that money or what this might do to the school district if they've committed to spending so much?

STOKES: Well, the key here is that the deal has been spread out over 3 1/2 years. So instead of trying to hit this one-year window, which is what had been happening before, the district trying to figure out how to scramble and come up with this money to cover just one year, now they've got three years to try and figure out how to pay for all of this. And there is sort of an understanding that - as the **mayor of Los Angeles**, who's been sort of facilitating these talks - that the district is going to try and take a leap of faith here, that they're going to try and have to figure out how to pay for all of this over the next three years, try and secure more state funding, maybe more local funding through some sort of property tax increase. We call it a parcel tax here. That - at least the district now, because it's been spread out over 3 1/2 years, they have some time to figure out how to make this work. But there is a question of how they are going to make this work financially.

GREENE: Kyle, a lot of people around the country are paying attention to this strike, and some of the national coverage focuses - focused on the growth of charter schools in LA. How did that impact these negotiations to this strike?

STOKES: Well - so charter schools aren't necessarily central to the dispute on the contract negotiating table, but they are central to the reasons why teachers are striking because charter schools, the competition with charters, is central to a lot of teachers' anxieties. Now, there are some regulations that have been written into the new contract. I would not call them central to the deal here. There also is going to be a school board vote on a resolution that would ask the state to cap the number of charter schools here in Los Angeles. Now, that says that something again can't be part of the contract deal. It needs to be something that state lawmakers do. But it looks like a charter-friendly majority on the school board here in Los Angeles is going to vote on a resolution that would call for that.

GREENE: Kyle Stokes from member station KPCC. Kyle, thanks.

STOKES: You're welcome.

## **NPR**

### **News Brief: LA Teachers, Government Shutdown And Its Impact On FBI**

DAVID GREENE, HOST: Big news here around LA. Students attending school in Los Angeles today will find something different - teachers in the classrooms.

STEVE INSKEEP, HOST: A six-day teacher strike is over. The educators were demanding better pay, smaller class sizes and other changes. Support for this deal was overwhelming, although different teachers see different implications for them. NPR asked a few what they thought.

JENNIFER LIEBE-ZELAZNY: I am actually pretty excited about our new, tentative agreement.

TERESA RIVAS-NASOQEQUE: Feeling a little uneasy and not fully satisfied with the agreement.

LIEBE-ZELAZNY: We are going to have smaller class sizes. That's big.

JESENIA CHAVEZ: For my class setting, the number of students actually increased.

RIVAS-NASOQEQUE: But I'm excited in moving forward to see what else we can accomplish as a collective.

INSKEEP: Those are teachers Jennifer Liebe-Zelazny, Teresa Rivas-Nasoqeque (ph) and Jesenia Chavez.

GREENE: All right. Kyle Stokes is the education reporter from member station KPCC and joins me here in our studios at NPR West. Kyle, good morning. You've been covering a six-day strike, and it's over.

KYLE STOKES, BYLINE: Oh, boy, I'm tired.

GREENE: I bet you are. Well - so it sounds like from those voices that there are still some - a lot of questions, but there is a deal. Teachers are going to get back to the classroom. What is in the deal? What are the details here?

STOKES: Well - so the deal includes a raise for teachers. That wasn't a big question. They had been looking for a 6 1/2 percent raise, but they've been - it looked like they were going to accept the 6 percent raise the district has been offering for months. It also looks like the teachers are going to get the hiring of new staff of nurses, of counselors and school librarians that they had been asking for, for instance. The union says that the district will hire enough nurses now to guarantee a nurse in every school five days a week, which is something that not a lot of schools have right now. Coming up in just a few years is when that's going to be in place.

The big breakthrough, David, though, was on class sizes, that the district agreed to try and hit some very ambitious targets for reducing class sizes here in Los Angeles schools. But they're going to do it over 3 1/2 years instead of the kind of one-year window that they'd been trying to hit before.

The other piece of the class size deal is that the school district gave up the power that it had in the old contract to essentially raise class sizes almost whenever they want because class size reduction is very expensive. And the district felt like they needed this flexibility in order to save money in the event of a fiscal crisis. The district gave that up, and the union found that old provision very toxic. They find that concession to be a huge one.

GREENE: All right. A lot more nurses, guarantees of smaller class size - these things cost money. The district had been saying they don't have the money. Did they come up with more money? What happened?

STOKES: Well - so part of this is still being costed out. It's still not entirely clear how much the entire deal is going to spend. And that's going to be calculated over the next couple of days. But on the class size and staffing pieces, part of the way that the district is going to pay for it is by spreading this out over 3 1/2 years, again, instead of that one-year window we had been talking about before.

But what also appears to be happening, David, is that the district is taking what Mayor **Eric Garcetti** called the leap of faith, that the funding is going to materialize somewhere, that either the state is going to come in down the road with more funding, that maybe local voters are going to raise their own property taxes. It is that leap of faith that seems to be what's going to move forward here. And that's going to be the way that the district is going to make this work is what it appears.

GREENE: It feels like a big moment of coming together. Is that what teachers and others involved are saying to you? Or is there still some sort of uncertainty out there?

STOKES: A big moment of coming together, yeah. There's a lot of relief certainly among parents that this is - that this deal is done.

GREENE: Sure.

STOKES: Teachers obviously feeling very empowered, like they got a lot done with this deal, and some actually, a minority apparently, felt like they maybe could have gotten more. But we saw overwhelming majorities vote in favor of this tentative agreement and look like they're ready to accept it.

GREENE: All right. Strike over in Los Angeles, although teachers in Denver are planning to strike beginning on Monday. So we're going to have to keep our eyes on that. Kyle Stokes from member station KPCC covers education here. Kyle, thanks.

STOKES: You're welcome.

(SOUNDBITE OF MUSIC)

INSKEEP: This week, the Senate will vote on two bills to end the partial government shutdown.

GREENE: That's right, two bills. One of them is backed by Republicans. The other is backed by Democrats. What the bills have in common is that neither is expected to actually pass. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell spoke for the Republican option.

(SOUNDBITE OF ARCHIVED RECORDING)

MITCH MCCONNELL: The proposal outlined by President Trump is the only one currently before us that can be signed by the president and immediately reopen the government.

GREENE: Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said that bill has no chance.

(SOUNDBITE OF ARCHIVED RECORDING)

CHUCK SCHUMER: The president's proposal is one-sided, harshly partisan and was made in bad faith.

GREENE: OK. Now Democrats, then, have backed the same measure that passed the Senate by unanimous consent back in December, a bill that has no funding for a border wall. That one died after President Trump said he wouldn't sign it.

INSKEEP: NPR White House correspondent Tamara Keith is following this story. Tamara, good morning.

TAMARA KEITH, BYLINE: Good morning.

INSKEEP: How are these bills different, other than one having border funding - border wall funding and the other not?

KEITH: Well, that's the big one. But the other difference is, really, one is simply a clean bill to fund the government for a short period of time. It would basically - the Democratic bill basically reopens the government for a couple of weeks to allow negotiations to continue. President Trump's bill, the Republican bill, is based on the remarks that the president delivered over the weekend. It includes wall funding, other border security funds. It also would have a temporary extension for the DACA program for young people known as DREAMers, as well as some other extensions for other immigrant groups. And it makes some pretty significant changes to the way the asylum works. And that, Democrats say, is a poison pill that is built into that measure.

INSKEEP: That - it's one of the parts that Chuck Schumer would refer to as being bad faith. So does voting on these two bills, neither of which seems likely to get 60 votes and pass, advance the process in any way?

KEITH: Well, sometimes taking votes that fail proves what can pass and what can't pass, and then they can move on. So in that sense, it might advance things. I mean, at least they're voting on something - right? - which they haven't done much of on the Senate side or any of on the Senate side as long as this shutdown has been going on. But does it resolve the underlying problem? No. The underlying problem is that President Trump doesn't want to end the shutdown - that he said he would be proud to own - until he has funding for a border wall. And Democrats say they don't want to start negotiating over a border wall until the government is reopened.

INSKEEP: Are lawmakers or the White House feeling increasing pressure?

KEITH: I think that they are. The pain is growing from the shutdown as it continues. Admiral Karl Schultz, the commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, posted a video last night on Twitter. He says we're five-plus weeks into this government lapse, and your anxiety and your non-pay, you as members of the armed forces should not be expected to shoulder this burden.

(SOUNDBITE OF VIDEO)

KARL SCHULTZ: I find it unacceptable that Coast Guard men and women have to rely on food pantries and donations to get through day-to-day life as service members.

KEITH: And then he made sure that they knew about assistance that's available. That is not a good look.

INSKEEP: No, hearing a commandant say that this is an unacceptable situation. Tamara, thanks so much.

KEITH: You're welcome.

INSKEEP: That is NPR's Tamara Keith.

Now, the shutdown is also affecting the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

GREENE: Yeah. Thomas O'Connor is the president of the FBI Agents Association. He says that the shutdown is making it more difficult for the agency to do its job to protect the people of the country from criminals and terrorists. It sounds like the shutdown is affecting a lot of important operations at the agency, including going after terrorists, drug traffickers, also gangs.

INSKEEP: NPR justice reporter Ryan Lucas is here to tell us more. He's in our studios in Washington. Ryan, good morning.

RYAN LUCAS, BYLINE: Good morning.

INSKEEP: So how is it that this shutdown affects the FBI?

LUCAS: Well, according to the FBI Agents Association, the impact of the partial shutdown is pretty significant on them.

The association represents around 14,000 active and retired FBI special agents, so they have representation members in all of the field offices across the country. And the group released a report yesterday that outlines how this lack of funding is hindering the FBI's work. It's based off of anonymous comments from members. And they say that it's having an impact on everything from training to operations and investigations. And the kinds of investigations that are taking a hit are serious. We're talking about sex trafficking, crimes against children, counterterrorism, cybersecurity, violent gangs, drug traffickers, everything. The Agents Association also says that this may have a long-term impact on the FBI on its ability to recruit and retain the kind of talent that it needs to do its job.

INSKEEP: Oh, sure, because it's embarrassing to have people not paid. But I want to understand this a little better. I presume that a lot of FBI agents are considered essential personnel. They're not being paid, but they're told to show up to work, meaning they can investigate things. But they're sending word they're unable to investigate even though they're on the job. Why would that be?

LUCAS: Well, one thing that stands out in this report again and again is agents saying that they no longer have the money to pay confidential sources who are critical to their investigations.

INSKEEP: Oh, who are not necessarily willing to wait till the end of the shutdown to get paid, I suppose.

LUCAS: When sources aren't getting paid, sources can dry up. Sources can go silent. And these sorts of sources are used in a lot of the work that the FBI does, stuff that I mentioned earlier - the counterterrorism cases, counterintelligence, gang, drugs. One example from the report comes from an agent who says that they're investigating a street gang that's pushing a lot of methamphetamine and heroin. And the agent says that their probe has been undermined because they don't have money to pay their confidential sources. And they also don't have money to make controlled purchases of drugs, which is something that they often use in narcotics investigations. Now...

INSKEEP: I'm just imagining an undercover officer having to stand there and say, listen; I can pay you for this. I just need to wait a couple weeks or maybe a little longer. No, go on, go on. I'm sorry.

LUCAS: (Laughter) Now, you also have to remember that the FBI doesn't work on its own. It can't do all of what it needs to do in order to carry out investigation on its own. It works closely with state and local law enforcement. The Agents Association says that in some cases that sort of cooperation has been hampered because they can't pay those partners for work on their joint investigations. And they also say that grand jury subpoenas are being delayed because there are no funds for them, and staff at U.S. attorneys' offices are furloughed.

INSKEEP: How are unpaid agents personally affected?

LUCAS: It's really hurting them, according to the FBI Agents Association. There are even food banks that have been set up at some of the field offices to try to help people make ends meet.

INSKEEP: OK. Ryan, thanks so much, really appreciate it.

LUCAS: Thank you.

INSKEEP: That's NPR's Ryan Lucas.

## **LA Daily News**

### **A 9-day LAUSD teacher strike took a financial toll. Here are some numbers**

The teacher strike that rocked LA's public schools over nine days was definitely a blow to the second largest district in the nation.

A bunch of numbers have been bandied about. But here's a rundown on what we know about the financial blow to the Los Angeles Unified School District, and on a few other things, like whether teachers will take a financial hit for walking out.

- By Tuesday, the last day of the nine-day strike, an estimated \$151.4 million was lost in state funding as a result of the nine-day strike.
- The loss was because of a huge dip in attendance during the strike last week. Regular attendance at the district's more than 1,000 K-12 schools hovers close to half a million. On Wednesday, the first day back after the strike, attendance was back up to 93 percent, right around 458,700, according to the district.
- The amount in lost revenue is partially offset by an estimated \$10 million per day not paid out to Los Angeles Unified School District employees during that period.
- A district spokeswoman said employees will not be paid for the six days they didn't report to work during the strike.

A high school teacher from the San Fernando Valley said she doesn't expect to get paid for the days she was out of the classroom and was unsure how the latest negotiated pay raise would fill the gap.

"I'm limited in what I know," said Diana, adding it was her first year teaching in the district and she was uncomfortable giving her last name out of concern for her job. "Personally, my next paycheck will be short. But, I think it was worth it. It was a small sacrifice."

A representative from Board of Education member Scott Schmerelson's office said he is waiting on answers from the school district on issues regarding teacher back pay and other issues related to the strike.

While some of her colleagues were taking a wait-and-see attitude, Kara Carlos, a psychiatric social worker with LAUSD School of Mental Health SFV Clinic, was saving a little bit each pay check, just in case. Her husband, who doesn't work for the school district like some of her colleagues, took on extra shifts to cover the lost days she anticipated might come to pass.

"This was a sacrifice, but an important one," Carlos said on Wednesday.

And there's future cost to think about.

The new agreement, which still needs to be signed off by the Board of Education and the Los Angeles County Office of Education, includes a 6 percent pay raise for teachers, with 3 percent retroactive to the 2017-18 school year and another 3 percent retroactive to July 1, 2018.

According to the district, the proposed agreement's provisions for reducing class sizes and hiring nurses, librarians and counselors will cost an estimated \$175 million from 2019-21, and \$228 million for 2021-22.

It was unclear exactly how the costs will be covered. **Garcetti** said the deal's various provisions will include a combination of funding or other support from the state, county and city.

#### **CBS Los Angeles**

#### **6-Day Teachers Strike Cost LAUSD \$151 Million**

LOS ANGELES (CBSLA) — The six-day teachers strike and the steep drop in attendance will cost the Los Angeles Unified School District more than \$151 million.

As teachers return to the classroom Wednesday, more than 600,000 students are expected to return with them. "A vast super-majority" of the more than 30,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles voted to approve the tentative agreement hammered out over the long holiday weekend, with the help of Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**.

But even as the more than 1,000 schools overseen by the district get back into normal operations, it will have to grapple with the major revenue shortfall caused by the strike.

According to numbers released by the district, the first day of the strike saw attendance drop to 156,774, costing the district \$22.8 million. On the second day, the number of students out of school rose to 171,480, but cost the district slightly less at \$21.7 million.

The strike only got more expensive on day three, with 134,724 students out of school, costing the district \$24.4 million. On the fourth and fifth day, attendance dropped to 84,160 and 87,559, respectively. Even though these days saw more students in school, they cost the district the most — about \$28 million each day.

On Tuesday, the last day of the strike, 110,881 students were at LAUSD schools, which lost \$26.2 million that day.

The total gross revenue lost during the strike is \$151.4 million, based on the attendance numbers available Tuesday. The district notes that all the numbers provided were what were available at the time of reporting, and that attendance needs to be validated.

Average daily attendance funds all California schools and is the single largest source of revenue for districts.

Also covered by: [Telemundo](#)

#### **LA School Report**

**The teacher strike is over. Now parents who felt ignored want to be included as LAUSD and UTLA move forward with their new agreement**

By: Esmeralda Fabian Romero



While tens of thousands of Los Angeles educators and families on Wednesday celebrated the end of the six-day teacher strike, about a dozen parents held their own news conference outside City Hall to make sure their voices were heard too.

Wearing white to signify neutrality, they said they felt that parents, particularly those in high-needs schools, were sidelined during the negotiations and the strike. Now that the teachers contract is settled, they want to make sure they are included in the local decision-making at their schools. They want to advocate for more school funding and be able to give input on how it's spent. They hope they don't have to experience another strike, but if there's another protracted disagreement between the teachers union and the district that so significantly impacts their children's education, they want their voices to be represented at the table.

"We are here, parents from traditional district schools, charters and other public schools, to say that we are independent, that we want to be included in the conversation between the two institutions that decided to be on strike and didn't pay attention to us," Ana Carreón said in Spanish to the small circle of journalists and television cameras that numbered nearly as many as the parents.

"Some of us felt intimidated during the strike to support one side or the other, and that was not fair. We're now grateful for both parties that they ended it, but we want parents to be included in future negotiations. This is not the end, this is just the beginning," said Carreón, mother of a senior at Foshay Learning Center near downtown.

"This is not the end," echoed Evelyn Alemán, who has a child at Grover Cleveland Charter High School and who is a member of the LAUSD Parent Advisory Committee. "We're ready to continue advocating, working closely with the district, with the state, with the teachers union to improve our schools, but we need transparency. We don't want just to be spectators. We want to be part of the action."

Alemán emphasized that the parents' position on the strike was "neutral" and that it's time "to work toward healing the fractured school relationships as a result and avoid further disruption to school communities, student instruction and learning."

She said they wanted to represent low-income students, those who are homeless and in foster care, English learners and immigrant students and their families, who "should never be asked to endure another strike. Their stories were largely unnoticed, but their stories need to be told," Alemán said. "As parents representing our children, we are here to make a call toward unity, healing and action."

L.A. Unified serves nearly half a million students, 82 percent of whom live in poverty. More than 17,000 experience homelessness. It's estimated that 1 in 4 students has a parent who is an undocumented immigrant. And nearly half are or have been English learners, so they don't have access to the more rigorous courses that are required for access to the state's public universities.

The parents said they were grateful for the leadership of L.A. Unified and United Teachers Los Angeles as well as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** for reaching an agreement so educators could return to their classrooms. They also said that during the last 10 days of negotiations they felt "largely ignored" and they now want to collaborate with both parties to ease the impact of the strike's aftermath for the most vulnerable students in the district.

"The last 10 days were very difficult for all district families. They felt forced to choose sides, they felt left out of the conversation, and most importantly, they felt concerned about the impact that the strike would have on their child's education," said Oscar Cruz, president and CEO of Families In Schools, an L.A.-based parent advocacy nonprofit that serves about 5,000 L.A. families a year and helped the parents organize Wednesday's news conference.

"When we hear everything is back to normal, we know that's not the case. We have a lot of work to do ahead of us," Cruz said. "We know that when schools partner with parents, student outcomes increase. Parents are the most important advocates for their children, so when parents have a voice in local decision-making, schools are better and become more equitable environments."

Cruz told LA School Report that because of the strike, people from his organization who assist parents and seniors with their college applications were not able to provide that help.

"We provide that service to families at school sites, so because of the strike our staff had to be away from schools last week. So more than 100 high school families missed about an hour of college counseling and mentorship. That's 100 hours of service that got lost," Cruz said.

On Tuesday, Garcetti, who acted as mediator in the last days of the contract negotiations, called the agreement "good news" and "a new day for public education in Los Angeles." But he also said that the strike was "painful and had a cost."

During the six days of the strike, L.A. Unified reported a gross revenue loss of about \$150 million from sharply lower attendance.

"Definitely the strike had a cost. I guess the good news came when the governor announced his new budget and there's more money than we were expecting. But at the same time we lost all this money," said Kathy Kantner, an L.A. Unified parent who spoke Wednesday and sits on a district parent committee.

"There's also a lot of concern about the loss of instruction, and that's a cost as well," Kantner said.

"We ask state and local leaders to commit more investments in our public schools. Particularly, we urge the teachers union and the district to include us in the decision-making process that impacts those investments that affect our children's academic achievement. We can be active participants in our children's education. We don't want to be sidelined, we want to be part of the action," Maria León, a parent from East Los Angeles, said in Spanish.

Mayra Pacheco said she was there to speak on behalf of charter school parents. Her three children attend Vaughn Next Century Learning Center, a charter school in Pacoima in the east San Fernando Valley. She said one of her main concerns now is that she heard the new agreement would limit options for other parents like her who are just looking for a better school option.

"We don't think of schools as traditional, magnets or charters. We just look for good schools for our children. If the union asked the district to limit those options, that would hurt families like mine and that makes me sad," Pacheco said. "If we look for other options, that's because we were not seeing good results in our traditional schools."

Just 42 percent of L.A. Unified students met reading standards this year on this year's state tests, and 32 percent met math standards. Among Latinos, who make up three-quarters of district enrollment, 36 percent met English standards and 25 percent met math standards. English learners were the student group with the lowest proficiency rate: 96 percent didn't meet reading standards, and 95 percent didn't meet math standards.

Hilda Ávila, whose son attends Fries Avenue Elementary in Wilmington in south Los Angeles, said she didn't send her son to school during the strike because she supported teachers on the picket lines, but she came to Wednesday's news conference to give voice to low-income immigrant parents who had to send their kids to school and had to face hostility even from other parents.

"We need to understand each other's stories and get to know the reasons why they had no other choice. Now it's time to move away from our differences and collaborate. It's time to be very involved and advocate together for more funding for our schools and avoid another strike happening again," Ávila said in Spanish.

Alemán thanked Families In Schools and other organizations as they have helped "elevate our voices."

"As educators and students go back to schools, parents want to be heard by the Los Angeles educational community," Cruz said.

## **USA Today**

### **Los Angeles teacher: Our strike was worth it to help students and improve schools**

By: Larry Strauss

It turned out to be a seven-day strike for Los Angeles teachers — including Martin Luther King Day, for which we will now not be paid — and it was worth it. Reducing class size, even just a little, helps our most challenged students the most. And it increases the likelihood that new teachers will survive those first few months and years. So will the moderate pay increase.

It is a shame that we had to walk out at all. I know some two-teacher families that will struggle with next month's short paycheck. We've got students trying to get ready for AP tests and college, and students whose only stability is their teachers and our classes. There isn't anything in our new contract that could not have been given to us two weeks or two months ago — especially when you consider the millions of dollars in revenue the district has lost because of low student attendance during the strike.

Superintendent Austin Beutner knows this, so perhaps he held out to test the strength of teachers and our union. Perhaps he did not believe we would walk out or stay out, or that parents and the public would stand with us. Perhaps he hoped to break or at least to weaken the United Teachers Los Angeles.

If so, that was a foolish hope. A Loyola Marymount University poll of parents in our community had them supporting us by nearly 80 percent. For thousands of teachers who stood out on the street and heard drivers blast their horns continually to show solidarity, that was not a surprise at all.

### *Fighting for all students, teachers and schools*

We were not just representing the teachers and students of our district but public school teachers and students throughout this country — inspired by teachers in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Colorado and Arizona — demanding adequate funding for schools. And we were representing workers from throughout this nation's history who often put their lives on the line for better pay and working conditions.

On Saturday, at a union strike meeting, I saw two women who were now on the line in their third strike. The first was in 1971 when they went out for 23 days in order to create the union. Now, near the end of their teaching careers, they were with us marching to save the union at a time when organized labor and the middle class are under assault.

We are educators and so this was also about improving the conditions in which our children can learn and prosper and be informed citizens. In an era of fake news perpetrated as espionage, educating the next generation is essential to preserving our democracy.

### *A lesson in confronting economic injustice*

Which makes it incredible that we had to fight for any of this. And ironic that Mayor **Eric Garcetti's** political aspirations — he wants to run for president — are what it took to get him involved and get us to an agreement.

This time our superintendent, and the interests that elevated him to his job, underestimated our resolve and, perhaps, our intelligence. This time educators and students and parents hung together and stayed tough through rain and wind and through the insult of a leader, a non-educator, who tried to devalue us.

We will return to work now stronger and more resolved to educate the children of this city. This was an important lesson for everyone, perhaps most of all our students who will hopefully have the strength to stand up to all the economic injustices they will soon have to confront.

### **LA Daily News**

#### **LAUSD teachers return to classrooms on first day back after massive strike**

By: Ariella Plachta and David Rosenfeld

After a nine-day strike that disrupted learning at hundreds of Los Angeles schools, the city's public school teachers, counselors, librarians and psychologists returned to classrooms on Wednesday.

Though overwhelmingly relieved to be back at work, administrators and teachers were also faced with the challenge of returning to normal campus routines after a week of strife and months of contentious contract negotiations.

As students filed into school in their uniforms, teacher Hannah Yahudian at Mulholland Middle School Wednesday morning said she felt Tuesday's morning announcement and subsequent evening approval of a deal was rushed.

"I wish we had more time to look it over. Hearing about it at 12 o'clock and voting on it at 5 o'clock, I was pouring over it with a fine-toothed comb," she said.

The deal includes a 6 percent raise for teachers, a reduction of one student per class next year in grades 4 through 12 with one more the year after and two more the year after that. It still must be reviewed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education and approved by the L.A. school board.

At Mulholland Middle School in Balboa Park, multiple teachers decided to cross the picket lines and stay in classrooms. Yahudian seemed confident professionalism would prevail.

"We can have a difference of opinion and still get along with each other. Maybe I'm being overly optimistic, but I'm happy to be back at work and I'm happy to see my friends that were and weren't on the line."

Coordinator of the school's robotics program Joel Domine agreed.

"When it comes to coming to school with a grudge, I have too much to do and can't burden myself with that stuff," he said. "Trust me when I tell you that when those teachers go back they are so happy to be teaching again and being back at work."

Domine said he felt particularly inspired by the deal's announcement Tuesday as L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** described students who sounded akin to Mulholland Middle's own.

"He said 'It's the young lady in the San Fernando who wants to be an engineer and send something to Mars' and I'm



just thinking of Ms. Silverman's Mars rover in the robotics class and then he said 'Or the kid who wants to get into film production' and we have that here and then 'or the kid that wants to be in a jazz band' and we have a band here too."

Launching a walkout from Jan. 14 to this past Monday, teachers represented by union United Teachers Los Angeles walked out, seeking smaller class sizes, more pay and greater support staff on their campuses.

They voted to approve a new three-year contract Tuesday evening that was produced following marathon bargaining sessions between the two parties with mediation help by Garcetti.

Mulholland Middle principal Dr. Gregory Vallone said it's too soon to reflect on the transition process from the strike and whether the new contract will reflect in real change at schools.

"On site, you've got to see how things play out. Because they say this thing and that thing is going to happen. But when you're really on the front lines doing the work, you see how everything lays out at your school," he said.

Vallone oversaw between 400 and 800 on each day of the strike, with at least 60 adult staff on hand – including teachers who crossed the picket line, substitute and administrators.

Teachers said that some of their colleagues were worried about retirement benefits, some were new teachers afraid of losing their position and others simply disagreed with union conduct and demands.

At Carson Street Elementary Wednesday morning in Carson, parent Dorris Espinosa dropped her three nieces and nephews off at school with a sigh of relief. Espinosa had been playing teacher the past week, attempting to instruct the kids on math and other subjects using textbooks she had at home.

"Now I know what the teachers feel like," she said with a smile.

Although it was a challenge to make it through the week with the kids at home, Espinosa said she felt the minor disruption was worth gains made.

Earlier this year, Espinosa said her nephew fell and struck his head at school and there was no school nurse on campus that day, which made getting care for him more difficult. As part of the deal struck between UTLA and LAUSD officials this week, the district agreed to staff every school with a full-time nurse.

"It was good in a way because the teachers got what they wanted," she said.

Pia Alcayaga, who dropped her daughter off at Carson Street Elementary echoed that sentiment. Instead of going to school, her daughter went to her friend's house each day.

"It's not good or bad," Alcayaga said. "I felt bad because my child was out of school but it had a purpose so it was worth it."

Rick Sander who had a 5th grader at Carson Elementary School said he was happy to have his daughter back in school.

"It was boring," he said. "She wanted more learning but she had no choice... It's enough."

## **ABC Los Angeles**

### **LAUSD strike: Teachers back in classrooms after voting to approve deal**

By: John Gregory and Anabel Munoz

LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- Teachers overwhelmingly approved a new contract and returned to the classroom after a six-day strike over funding and staffing in the nation's second-largest school district.

Although all votes hadn't been counted as of Wednesday morning, preliminary figures showed that a "vast supermajority" of some 30,000 educators voted in favor of the tentative deal, "therefore ending the strike and heading back to schools tomorrow," said Alex Caputo-Pearl, president of United Teachers Los Angeles.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, accompanied by leaders of the union and the Los Angeles Unified School District, announced the agreement at City Hall a few hours after a 21-hour bargaining session ended before dawn.

"This is a good agreement. It is a historic agreement," Garcetti said.

The deal was described by officials as including a 6-percent pay hike and a commitment to reduce class sizes over four years.

Specifics provided later by the district and the union included the addition of more than 600 nursing positions over the next three school years. Additional counselors and librarians were also part of the increase in support staff.

Marianne O'Brien said the need for additional support staff was one of the main reasons she walked picket lines.

"This is not just for teachers. It's also for counselors, nurses, psychologists and social workers," said O'Brien, who teaches 10th grade English.

The new contract also eliminates a clause that gave the district authority over class sizes. Grades 4 through 12 would be reduced by one student during each of the next two school years and two pupils in 2021-22.

Disputes over pay, class sizes and support-staff levels in the district with 640,000 students led to its first strike in 30 years and prompted the staffing of classrooms with substitute teachers and administrators.

The district insisted that the union's demands could bankrupt the school system, which is projecting a half-billion-dollar deficit this budget year and has billions earmarked for pension payments and health coverage for retired teachers.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said he was glad the deal was reached. But he hinted that financial challenges remained.

"The issue has always been: How do we pay for it?" Beutner said. "That issue does not go away now that we have a contract. We can't solve 40 years of underinvestment in public education in just one week or just one contract."

Thousands of educators, many wearing red, and their supporters gathered on the steps outside City Hall after the tentative agreement was announced.

The crowd began cheering, blowing horns and chanting the initials of Caputo-Pearl as the smiling union leader emerged from the building and walked through the crowd.

Joaquin Flores, a special education teacher, said he believed he would support the deal unless it weakened health care or didn't go far enough to reduce class size.

"It's almost like metaphoric," Flores said. "The sun's out. When we started, it was all rainy and cold. I feel like it's a new day."

### **Los Feliz Ledger**

#### **As Classes Resume, It's a Mixed-Bag of Teacher Reactions to Strike Gains**

Thousands of educators and their students returned to class today, following a Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) teachers' strike that stretched over six school days but ended thanks to a marathon negotiating session that resulted in a labor agreement.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who worked with the district and teachers' union to help broker the labor deal, was among those welcoming some students back to school. He posted photos of himself on social media walking to campus with a group of children, then reading to them in class.

"There's a new energy in L.A. around the idea that we can all play a role in giving our kids the excellent public education they deserve," wrote Garcetti, who slightly delayed a flight to Washington, D.C., so he could spend time with kids returning to class.

Garcetti is heading to Washington, D.C. to attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors' winter meeting, which started today and runs through Friday.

The mood was upbeat at campuses across the district, including at Franklin Elementary School in the Los Feliz area, where a group of teachers serenaded students returning to class.

"We're going to keep on fighting from here, but it's an excellent start," teacher Valerie Peralta told KCAL9.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said last night "a vast super-majority" of teachers had voted in favor of the labor agreement, which was announced yesterday morning following a 21-hour negotiating session at City Hall.

The agreement also requires formal approval by the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education. Although that vote is considered a formality, the board cannot vote on it until the pact is reviewed by the county Office of

Education, which provides fiscal oversight of the district.

"Our obligation is to ensure that the district has a funding plan in place to cover the costs associated with this agreement, and thereby able to remain fiscally solvent," county Supt. Debra Duardo said in a statement.

"Now that a tentative agreement is in place, the Los Angeles County Office of Education has the legal obligation to review and provide comments before the LAUSD governing board takes action. While the statute provides a window of 10 working days, we intend to provide these comments as soon as possible once we receive the relevant data," Duardo said.

UTLA teachers went on strike Jan. 14, calling for smaller class sizes and the hiring of more support staff, such as nurses, counselors and librarians, and a pay raise.

"The strike nobody wanted is now behind us," LAUSD Supt. Austin Beutner said yesterday when the tentative agreement was announced.

Although some teachers wondered aloud if the strike had been worth it, Caputo-Pearl said the agreement addressed the union's core issues.

"We have seen over the last week something pretty amazing happen," UTLA's Caputo-Pearl said. "We went on strike in one of the largest strikes the United States has seen in decades. And the creativity and innovation and passion and love and emotion of our members was out on the street, in the communities, in the parks for everyone to see."

Some teachers this morning expressed trepidation at the new contract.

"Elementary teachers aren't very happy about the contract," teacher Brenda Hauser told NBC4. "They gave us very few hours to review it. And what we needed the most was the class-size reduction, which we didn't get much."

The deal includes a 6% pay raise for teachers, with 3% retroactive to the 2017-18 school year and another 3% retroactive to July 1, 2018.

It also includes provisions for providing a full-time nurse at all schools, along with a teacher-librarian. The proposal also calls for the hiring of 17 counselors by October and outlines a phased-in reduction of class sizes over the next three school years, with additional reductions for "high needs" campuses.

Caputo-Pearl said the issue of class size was a key element of the pact. He said the district agreed to eliminate contract language he dubbed an "escape clause" that would allow the district to increase class sizes in the future.

Additionally, a main thrust of the union's strike was a call for increases in the number of nurses, counselors and librarians at campuses.

But again, some union members expressed disappointment with the results, including a teacher from Los Feliz's Marshall High who said in remarks reported in the Los Angeles Times that her room has 36 desks, but some of her classes have up to 40 students.

"I think it's kind of sad that we had to spend six days getting the numbers that we already had," she said.

According to the district, the proposed agreement's provisions for reducing class sizes and hiring nurses, librarians and counselors will cost an estimated \$175 million from 2019-21 and \$228 million for 2021-22.

It was unclear exactly how the costs will be covered. Garcetti said the deal's various provisions will include a combination of funding or other support from the state, county and city, including a promise for the mayor to support a November 2020 ballot initiative that would roll back Proposition 13 property tax limits on commercial buildings to increase state tax revenue for public education.

District officials said the UTLA strike, which kept teachers out of classrooms for six school days, cost the LAUSD an estimated \$151.4 million in attendance-based state funding. That amount is partially offset, however, by an estimated \$10 million per day by the salaries that were not paid to striking teachers.

## **Westside Today**

### **Teachers Return to Westside Schools as Strike Ends**

By: Keldine Hull

On January 14, they took to the picket lines in the first strike to affect LA schools in 30 years. Over a week later, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA), which represents over 30,000 educators, and LAUSD reached a historic agreement that

not only benefits educators but also 50,000 students throughout Los Angeles.

Schools on the Westside impacted by the strike included University High School Charter, Brentwood Elementary Science Magnet, Kenter Canyon Elementary, Paul Revere Charter Middle School, Westwood Charter Elementary, Emerson Community Charter, Fairburn Avenue Elementary, Warner Avenue Elementary Venice High School, Broadway Elementary School, Westminster Elementary School, Walgrove Avenue Elementary School and Beethoven Street Elementary School.

UTLA President Alex Caputo- Pearl released a statement regarding the agreement and end to the strike. "For too long teachers have lived with a hard truth to tell- that for years our students were being starved of the resources they need," he begins. "Our expectations were fundamentally raised by this strike. Together we said we deserve better, our students deserve better. We must keep our expectations high and not let go of this moment, because the next struggle is right around the corner."

The terms of the landmark agreement include a 6 percent salary increase for educators, reduced class sizes in grades four through 12, increased nursing and library services, and additional counselors for middle and high schools. Other points in the agreement include a commitment to reduce testing by 50 percent, expand green space and support for immigrant families. LAUSD also agreed to provide more opportunities for collaboration between the District and Union.

11th District Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Bonin who represents much of West L.A. also released a statement praising everyone involved in the agreement. "I am grateful and excited that with Mayor **Garcetti's** leadership, UTLA and LAUSD have reached an agreement to end the strike and return the students and teachers to the classrooms." Bonin continues, "The past week has drawn unprecedented attention to the state of public education in Los Angeles, and I hope has reinvested all of us, from individual neighborhoods all the way to Sacramento, in being part of its success."

LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner feels hopeful that the agreement represents a shift into a positive direction. "Today marks a new chapter in public education for Los Angeles Unified. Public education is the ultimate labor-management collaborative and we are committed to working together to make sure every student gets a great education."

In a press conference held at City Hall following the agreement, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti spoke of the importance of public education to the city of Los Angeles. "All of us have a huge stake in our school. It represents the future, not only of this city but in many ways our core values, who we are, what we see in our children, and what sort of future city we want to have." Garcetti continues, "We've seen over the last few weeks, the way that this city has rallied around public education. Quite frankly, it's been breathtaking. It's been inspiring to see. And for a city that embraced the idea that public education matters, the children matter, the teachers matter, today is a day full of good news."

Teachers returned to school on January 23, many with the confidence that their voices mattered, their concerns were heard and the impact of their actions will have a positive effect on teachers and students alike for years to come.

## **TMZ**

### **L.A. MAYOR ERIC GARCETTIScrew the Doubters ...L.A. HAS BEST SPORTS TEAMS IN U.S.!!!**

L.A. Mayor and likely Presidential candidate **Eric Garcetti** is promising a party for the ages if the L.A. Rams win the Super Bowl.

We got Garcetti, who was on his way to Washington D.C. where he's the keynote speaker at the United States Conference of Mayors, and he was pumped up about the Rams as any fan in the City of Angels.

Garcetti, who was a key player in the negotiations that ended the L.A. teachers strike, is likely going to throw his hat in the 2020 ring, and soon.

Hizzoner was not shy about his contempt for anyone who says L.A. is not a sports town. Garcetti presents his evidence on why L.A. is the BEST sports town in the U.S. of A.

## **City News Service**

### **Garcetti Heads to Washington D.C. for U.S. Conference of Mayors**

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is heading to Washington, D.C., for the three-day U.S. Conference of Mayors' 87th Winter Meeting at the Capital Hilton Hotel, but he slightly delayed his departure to visit students heading back to class following the teachers' strike.

Garcetti was expected to among those giving remarks Wednesday during the conference's opening luncheon, but he opted to skip that appearance and take a later flight out of Los Angeles, according to his office.

Garcetti, who helped broker an end to the teachers' strike, spent Wednesday morning with some students on their first day back in the classroom.

Columbia, South Carolina Mayor Steve Benjamin, the president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D- San Francisco, are both expected to speak at the opening luncheon.

On Thursday, Garcetti is expected to moderate a discussion titled "Assuring a Full and Fair 2020 Census and Inclusive Immigration Policies," as he is chair of the Latino Alliance of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Santa Monica Mayor Gleen Davis will speak Thursday on "Navigating Cities Through the E-Scooter Revolution" as part of a segment on new transportation technologies and opportunities.

Other scheduled speakers include Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, gun control advocate David Hogg and four possible Democratic presidential candidates, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Sens. Cory Booker, D-New Jersey, and Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon, and former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper.

About 250 mayors of cities with populations of 30,000 or more are set to attend the meeting, which will also include sessions on the economy, veterans and renewable energy.

In addition to Garcetti, Garcia and Davis, the mayors from Los Angeles and Orange counties registered for the meeting are Jeffrey Koji Maloney (Alhambra); Harry Sidhu (Anaheim); Dr. Julian A. Gold (Beverly Hills); Thomas Aujero Small (Culver City); Stacey Armato (Hermosa Beach); Donald P. Wagner (Irvine); John Mark Jennings (Laguna Niguel); Peter Chan (Monterey Park); Diane B. Dixon (Newport Beach); Steven Ly (Rosemead); Patrick J. Furey (Torrance); and Tara Campbell (Yorba Linda).

## **La Opinion**

### **Recounting a human drama, the homeless**

By: Jorge Luis Macias

Ryan Coughran and his wife Priscilla know first-hand the importance of having all the people living in distress counted. Jared, his youngest son who suffers from autism, was barely 18 months old when they were literally forced to leave the apartment where they lived, in Pacoima.

In September of 2016, Ryan had just quit his job as a trailero to dedicate full time at home to the care of his son, while she worked.

"We paid \$ 1,400 a month for rent and then we could not pay a \$ 200 rent increase for the apartment," said Ryan, 32. "That knocked us to the ground."

Ironically, Priscilla - who worked in a health clinic for the homeless - ended up living on the street.

"We lived in the car and from motel to motel," she recalls, almost on the verge of crying. "It was six very difficult months."

Ryan, the son of a Mexican biological father, but who carries his foster father's last name, told La Opinión that he was the victim of a violent parent, from whom he fled because of physical violence.

"I lived in the streets of Guadalajara, and when I came [to the United States] I also did not have a home for three or four years," recalled this man who got up from the problem. "The important thing to get ahead was to have patience; Therefore, I advise everyone that if it is necessary to ask for help, it must be done, because if one does not speak, God does not listen to him."

## **Volunteers**

Ryan and Priscilla went out on Tuesday night to listen to those who - like them - need help. They joined thousands of volunteers who took to the streets of the city and the county of Los Angeles to account for the homeless people who live and spend the night in the open, in campaign homes, under bridges or riverbanks.

"We found four tents and we estimated that there would be 6 to 7 people inside," said Blanca Rodgers, a provider of household services at LA Family Housing, who made the trip along with Cristina Carrillo and Sata Brown, through nearby alleys. to Vanowen Street, in North Hollywood. "My job is to find the homeless and find a place to live."

Rodgers said that, in three months of work with LA Family Housing, he has helped some 35 people.

However, in this organization, one of the largest that provide comprehensive services to the homeless, every year it serves almost 7,300 people who are emerging from helplessness and poverty.

### *Humanitarian crisis; numbers down*

This annual count is considered the largest in the nation, because Los Angeles has the dubious reputation of being considered "the capital of the homeless" with more than 53,000 people homeless

The three-day count that concludes this Thursday is a critical step taken by the city, county, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and LA Family Housing authorities to help guide the programs and services where they are most needed.

"We have to resolve what is described as a humanitarian crisis," said Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County Supervisor. "The information that is collected matters to have an updated idea of the dynamics and reality [of the number of homeless people]; every man and woman deserves to have dignity and we must restore their dignity. "

Earlier, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** was smiling when he announced the end of the LAUSD teachers' strike and indicated that "the lack of housing is like public education, something that for a long time we have not dedicated resources, love or attention to. ; if you're not frustrated [by the lack of housing for thousands of people] then you do not have a heart. "

This year, the efforts involve more than 8,000 volunteers who will travel to 149 sites to count the homeless, no matter where they live.

In 2018, for the first time in four years, the results of the count showed that the number of people who experienced the lack of a place they could call home decreased by 4%, to a total of approximately 53,000, thanks to the combination of investment in accessible housing with funds from Measure H and the HHH Proposition, in addition to other initiatives. Since July 2017, the county has also provided temporary housing to nearly 10,000 individuals.

But, due to unprecedented levels of investment, Los Angeles County is in the process of achieving the goal of Measure H to provide permanent housing to 45,000 families and individuals by 2022.

Since July 2017, the county has assisted 10,000 individuals with a permanent home and nearly 18,000 people had access to support, crisis and temporary shelter services.

Meanwhile, since the approval of the voters of Proposition HHH, November 2016, the city of Los Angeles has made significant progress with the construction of 10,000 units of supportive housing.

In the city, development projects have grown to 78, for a total of 5,104 units, of which 3,619 are supportive housing.

"All I need is an accessible place to live," said Lawton Arnold, a 45-year-old homeless from Georgia who has lived in the streets for three years. "Here, in Los Angeles, with what you pay for a one-bedroom apartment, you can live there in a three-bedroom house."

Arnold was found by La Opinión near a homeless camp on Lankershim Boulevard in North Hollywood.

"I do not want to live in the streets," he added. "If someone gives me a job, I can work as a cook in a fast food place."

In the fight against homelessness in the 6th district it represents, Councilwoman Angelina Nury Martínez said that work is being done on apartment projects such as Casa del Sol, which will have 44 supportive housing units for the elderly; Angel Project in North Hills; Arminta Square and the Senior Veterans Apartments project in Sun Valley (SVSV), which after completion will be opened in September of this year and will provide 96 permanent supportive housing units and will house homeless and chronically homeless disabled veterans.

### **LA Taco**

#### **City Hall intrigue: Garcetti appointee resigns after being named in FBI corruption probe**

By: Philip Iglauer

Joel Jacinto, a commissioner on the five-member Board of Public Works, resigned last week from one of the plushiest seats on the city government's appointed civilian boards after his name came up in an FBI warrant looking into alleged money laundering, bribery, and kickbacks involving Councilman Jose Huizar.

Jacinto and his wife, Ave Jacinto, were among a slew of people named in the warrant, which was filed in federal court in November. The warrant said agents were seeking evidence related to an investigation into an array of potential crimes possibly involving a collection of City Hall's top people.



Mayor **Eric Garcetti** nominated Jacinto to the Board of Public works in July 2015. The mayor last week sought to distance himself from the inquiry, saying during a press conference – ostensibly about the start of the teachers strike – that he should not be held accountable for everything that people do inside his administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff," the mayor said. "But I do take my responsibility seriously."

Mayor Garcetti did not comment on Jacinto's resignation.

Thomas M. Brown, Jacinto's lawyer, said he submitted his resignation to avoid becoming a distraction for his department. "If contacted by any federal agency, he willfully and voluntarily cooperate as a witness against any individuals within city government," Brown said. "He hopes that he will be able to return to his position as commissioner in the near future after any distraction related to his willingness to serve as a witness is completed."

At the time of his appointment in 2015, Garcetti said: "With his extensive experience working with youth, families, businesses, and communities, Joel is well equipped to make sure City Hall is working efficiently and helping to improve life for Angelenos."

Prior to his city employment, Jacinto worked as a global sales coordinator for FRHI Hotels and Resorts, according to paperwork he submitted when he joined the public works board.

A significant figure in the city's Filipino community, Jacinto also worked previously as executive director of the Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, a nonprofit group based in Historic Filipinotown that focuses on economic and community development.

Board members oversee such issues as street repairs, trash pickup and the city's sewer system, earning a salary of more than \$160,000 annually.

The federal search warrant also named Councilman Jose Huizar, formerly chair of the Planning Land Use and Management committee, which oversees development in the city. The FBI raided Huizar's home and offices on Nov. 7.

Other City Hall insiders named in the search warrant include Councilman Curren Price, who represents parts of Downtown and of South Los Angeles, and Deron Williams, chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson.

After news of the warrant went public, he told reporters he was not aware that he had been mentioned in a search warrant. He added that his wife is an independent contractor, but did not elaborate on that. While serving with Public Works, Jacinto was assigned to work with the city's Bureau of Engineering, which reviews permits that are provided to companies that seek to carve into streets and sidewalks as part of their construction projects.

He was in regular contact with Raymond Chan, then at Building and Safety, and scheduled several meetings with real estate developers or about development, according to a report by the Los Angeles Times.

#### *Garcetti's Ambitions*

The expansive investigation could not come at a worse time for the mayor. Garcetti has invested hundreds of days traveling outside of California to key Democratic primary states Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina for more than a year. He is weighing a run for president in 2020.

If he does try for the White House, he would likely face questions about the corruption probe on any campaign trail. Although, the mayor did work up some good will from his role in helping to resolve the six-day teachers strike this week.

Agents also served a warrant on Google back in July, seeking information from a private email account for Raymond Chan, former deputy mayor for economic development in 2016 and 2017 under Garcetti. From 1987, Chan had worked his up at the city's Department of Building and Safety. Garcetti had promoted him as the department's top executive before he appointed him to deputy mayor.

It is important to note that the federal warrant does list specific evidence of criminal activity or even wrong doing by any of the people named in the document. The warrant also doesn't indicate there is any evidence discovered in Chan's email account.

#### **LA Times**

**With Jan Perry's entrance, race to replace Supervisor Ridley-Thomas could be contentious**

By: Matt Stiles and Dave Zahniser

Another experienced local politician, former Los Angeles City Council member Jan Perry, is making an early leap into the race to succeed term-limited county Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas next year.

Perry announced Tuesday that she's joining a field that already includes her one-time City Hall rival, Herb Wesson, and first-time candidate Sharis Rhodes to represent the 2nd Supervisorial District in South Los Angeles, which encompasses roughly 2 million residents.

A former appointee of Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, Perry said that, if elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, she would focus on homelessness and on building new infrastructure to create jobs and spur community development.

"The county's most important function is to ensure that services it provides are available in a manner that's as accessible and effective as possible," she said. "I have a well-documented, well-developed portfolio of" doing that.

Ridley-Thomas, in turn, is running for Wesson's council seat next year. A former councilman himself, he has sent invitations to a Super Bowl-themed campaign fundraiser planned next month, according to city records.

Given their experience and base of support in South L.A., both Perry and Wesson — who, as City Council president, represents a district stretching from Koreatown to Leimert Park — are likely to be formidable candidates to succeed Ridley-Thomas in the primary election next year.

The two political veterans, along with Rhodes, are black — and about half the county's black population lives in the supervisorial district, which stretches from Culver City to Carson.

Wesson, who has been council president since 2012, entered the race last month. A highly influential figure, he rivals Garcetti in his ability to shape policy and legislation at City Hall.

Wesson also could face questions during the campaign about an ongoing corruption investigation at City Hall. A federal search warrant filed in the probe said agents were seeking evidence related to an investigation of an array of potential crimes, including bribery and extortion, and named several political figures, including Deron Williams, Wesson's chief of staff.

Perry moved into Ladera Heights after the holiday season and had previously lived outside the district in downtown. She is the executive director of the Infrastructure Funding Alliance and said that, during her time at City Hall, she secured funds for affordable housing and worked to improve conditions in skid row.

Perry served on the City Council from 2001 to 2013. During her final years on the council, she waged an unsuccessful run for mayor and endorsed Garcetti for mayor in a 2013 runoff. He appointed her to lead the city's Economic and Workforce Development Department a few months later.

Wesson and Perry have a shared political history from their time serving together on the City Council, raising the prospect of a contentious race.

During her last few years on the council, Perry was at odds with Wesson over his handling of the city's redistricting process, which led to a major redesign of the boundaries of Perry's council district.

And as the redistricting process was getting started, Perry and a close ally, Councilman Bernard C. Parks, did not show up for a vote, in which Wesson became the City Council's first black president. Weeks later, Wesson removed Parks and Perry from two key committees.

The third, lesser-known candidate, Rhodes, is a Los Angeles High School graduate who spent time in foster care during her childhood. The mother of a 3-year-old son, Rhodes, 32, said she is running to be a voice for younger constituents and, if elected, hopes to draw on her experience as a music teacher for at-risk youths to help constituents.

"I'm going up against some big, heavy names. But at the same time, their political histories have not done our community justice," said Rhodes, who is studying community planning and economic development at Los Angeles Trade Technical College.

The election is set for March 2020, with a potential runoff election in November 2020.

## **CNBC**

**Every Democrat wants Barack Obama's 2020 endorsement – but Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are likely the top contenders to get it**

By: Jeff Daniels

A huge question of the 2020 campaign is who former President Barack Obama will endorse.



A primary field including both Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., and former Vice President Joe Biden could make the choice especially tricky since they would likely be the top contenders for his backing.

Harris, a first-term senator who also served as California's attorney general, declared her candidacy for president Monday, while Biden, himself a longtime former senator, has yet to decide whether to launch a campaign.

Harris and Biden have had long and fruitful relationships with Obama. The former two-term president would arguably end up the biggest supporter of a Biden 2020 run, but Obama also counts Harris as a loyal ally. Harris was San Francisco district attorney when she threw her support behind Obama's presidential run in early 2007 — a time when many other elected politicians in the nation's most populous state backed then-front-runner Hillary Clinton.

With other Obama political allies likely to enter the 2020 presidential race, though, many Democratic strategists believe the former president won't rush into endorsing anyone.

"Smart people and smart money — donors — are going to let this thing play out a little bit to see who is real and then decide where they want to push all their eggs or their chips into that candidate," said Andrew Acosta, a California-based Democratic political strategist.

Other veteran Democrats, including some who worked on Obama campaigns, believe the former president won't endorse a particular 2020 contender until the primary process is further along. Obama held secret meetings with Biden, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and at least seven other presidential hopefuls last year, Politico reported in June.

An Obama spokesman didn't respond to a request for comment for this story. CNBC also reached out to the Harris campaign.

Harris has been considering the presidential run for some time and has joined a growing field that already includes fellow Sens. Warren and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York.

Democrat Julian Castro, a former mayor of San Antonio who served as Obama's secretary of Housing and Urban Development, also announced he's running. Among other declared Democratic candidates are Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii and John Delaney, a former congressman from Maryland. Pete Buttigieg, Democratic mayor of South Bend, Indiana, is officially exploring a run, too.

In all, there could be 20 or more Democratic presidential hopefuls entering the 2020 campaign, according to political strategists interviewed for this story.

Former 2016 presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. is said to be considering another run. Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., over the weekend visited the South and also is said to be close to announcing a decision. Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** made a swing through Iowa last year and is said to be considering a run, too, as is billionaire former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg. Democratic rising star Beto O'Rourke of Texas, who narrowly lost to Republican Ted Cruz in last year's Senate race, is also weighing whether he should jump into the campaign.

#### *Biden is the early favorite*

Biden officially remains undecided about whether he will run. But polls show him as the top preference of Democratic voters, ahead of Sanders.

"Obama has a lot of loyalty to Biden, they are very close," said Robert Shrum, director of the University of Southern California's Dornsife's Center for the Political Future and a former Democratic political operative.

According to Shrum, who served on multiple presidential campaigns, "Obama could obviously have a very large impact on this process if he wanted to, but I don't know whether he will."

Shrum recalled how Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts had a big role in the Democratic presidential race in early 2008 when he formally endorsed Obama right in the middle of primaries.

Meantime, Harris plans to have campaign headquarters in Baltimore and a second office in Oakland, California, where she grew up.

Even before she announced her presidential run, Harris generated headlines for her tough questioning of several Trump administration appointees. The former prosecutor has been seen as a rising star in the Democratic Party and is the daughter of immigrants from India and Jamaica.

She became one of Obama's California campaign chairs in the 2008 presidential contest and gained a reputation as a strong fundraiser.

"She always got a strong reception from people when she spoke," said Kim Mack, a former regional field organizer in California for the Obama 2008 presidential campaign. Mack isn't currently associated with the Harris campaign.

If Biden decides to join the 2020 race, Mack believes it could dim the chances for Harris to win the Democratic presidential nomination. She said **there's a chance Harris could end up as a vice presidential pick, too.**

"I really feel like it will be Biden-Harris," she said. "And in order for that to be a successful ticket, she **needs to raise her visibility across the country.**"

#### *Harris seeks edge with an earlier California primary*

Harris is scheduled to speak on Friday at an event at the South Carolina State Fairgrounds in Columbia. The Palmetto State could prove crucial for her candidacy as it is scheduled to be one of the first states to have its **primary in February 2020** and follow New Hampshire.

In addition, the Iowa caucuses take place in early February 2020 and will be followed by the Nevada caucus later that month.

California's role in the Democratic nomination is seen as more important in 2020. The state's primary will be held along several other state primaries on Super Tuesday — March 3, 2020 — instead of its usual June spot, which is when the primary season traditionally starts to wrap up.

"California has been irrelevant for the most part in the Democratic process since 1972 when it was decisive," Shrum said.

The veteran political watcher was quick to add, though, that California moving up the primary still doesn't make Iowa and New Hampshire less important, and arguably makes them more important. He said that's because those early states will help determine "who's winnowed in, who is seen as a viable candidate."

Also, Shrum said Harris may have the advantage of name recognition in her home state, but that doesn't mean she's guaranteed to win California.

"I don't agree with the idea that somehow or another people would just vote for someone because they were from California, if they had not established their viability in the earlier part of the process," Shrum said. He said online fundraising and social media strategies as well as whether a message resonates with a wide variety of people are among many factors that will help determine the candidates that do well.

Shrum recalled that former California Gov. Jerry Brown came in third place in the 1980 Democratic presidential primary in California, trailing Ted Kennedy and President Jimmy Carter. To be fair, he said Brown ran toward the end of his first stint as governor when he "wasn't all that popular."

"People don't throw away their votes, and I think she [Harris] understands this. That's why she's talking about having a headquarters in the East and not just the West," Shrum said. "And I would expect to see her compete vigorously in the early states."

#### **Courthouse News Service**

#### **California Urged to Build More Housing to Fight Homelessness Crisis**

By: Nick Cahill

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CN) — Lurking beneath California's indisputable spoils — the world's fifth largest economy, a diverse population and overall spectacular weather — is a growing humanitarian crisis that continues to baffle most local and state politicians. The calamity is hardly unique to the Golden State, but over the last decade under a predominantly liberal Legislature, the number of Californians living on the street has grown while the national homelessness rate has dropped.

With new Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom proposing to open up the vault to fund new homeless shelters and drive home construction, lawmakers sought advice on how to best spend the latest batch of taxpayer dollars on the state's less fortunate.

"We're here because over the years, between federal government, state government and local governments, we have spent billions of dollars through many, many different policies and programs attempting to address homelessness — and yet homelessness not only continues, it's intensifying," said Assemblyman David Chiu Wednesday during a

homelessness brainstorming session.

Like Newsom, Chiu is a Democrat from San Francisco. He chairs the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee and on Wednesday summoned a group of advocates and experts to the state Capitol. He and several other lawmakers spent over three hours talking about crafting a better response to what Chiu calls California's "moral crisis."

On a national level, homelessness levels have decreased by 13 percent since 2010 while California's homeless population has spiked by 9 percent. California not only has the most homeless people of any state, 69 percent of those without places to live are unsheltered.

"They live outside in places not meant for human habitation," said Cynthia Nagendra, a director with the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Nagendra testified cities with recent success in cutting homelessness rates have had an "intense focus on housing people as quickly as possible," and that while temporary shelters are necessary, cities must provide ways for people to gain access to their own homes.

A Brooklyn Law School graduate, Nagendra added the key elements to curing homelessness include accurate homelessness data, rent subsidies, housing development funding and less zoning red tape at the local and state levels.

In his first budget proposal earlier this month, Newsom called for \$500 million in one-time spending for local governments to build homeless shelters and expedited environmental reviews for new shelters. He wants the state to consider building emergency shelters on unused state land and says he will soon appoint the state's first-ever homelessness czar.

Similar to Newsom's idea, earlier this week a trio of Assembly members introduced a bipartisan bill that would allow the Department of Transportation to lease properties to local municipalities for new emergency shelters, food pantries and parks at a cost of \$1 per month.

But some lawmakers doubt spending more will have a clear effect on the crisis.

Assemblyman Steven Choi, R-Irvine, said he's frustrated with the lack of progress and is worried that counties and cities are misusing the funds doled out by the Legislature.

"Here in Sacramento, we talk about [homelessness and housing shortages] almost daily when we meet in committees; we can't even solve the capital city's homelessness situation," Choi said during the housing and human services joint meeting. "Why can't we create or try different methods?"

The state's ordeal is perhaps no more apparent than in its largest city of Los Angeles, where an estimated 52,000 people were homeless in 2018. But the total was actually a bit of good news for the city since it marked a decrease for the first time in four years.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** has made ending homelessness one of his top priorities and under his watch, the City Council and voters have raised property taxes and taken out expansive bonds for housing the homeless population.

Christina Miller, deputy mayor of Los Angeles' homelessness initiatives, told the committee members in Sacramento that "nothing deserves more urgency than solving" the crisis. She says the city and county are committed to removing development barriers, such as parking and zoning requirements, and dedicating parcels of city-owned land for new housing.

"In LA we will persist until every Angeleno on the street today has a safe, warm place to call home," Miller testified.

Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva of Orange County said that if other cities don't begin to follow Los Angeles' lead and take the crisis seriously, the state will have to play a bigger role.

"We cannot continue to say no [to new housing] when every excuse has run out," Quirk-Silva said of cities hesitant to build shelters and affordable homes. "We have to build housing. If we don't build housing, we are not going to be able to address this issue."

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